ASA WALDO WILDES
1786-1857

Re: Averill

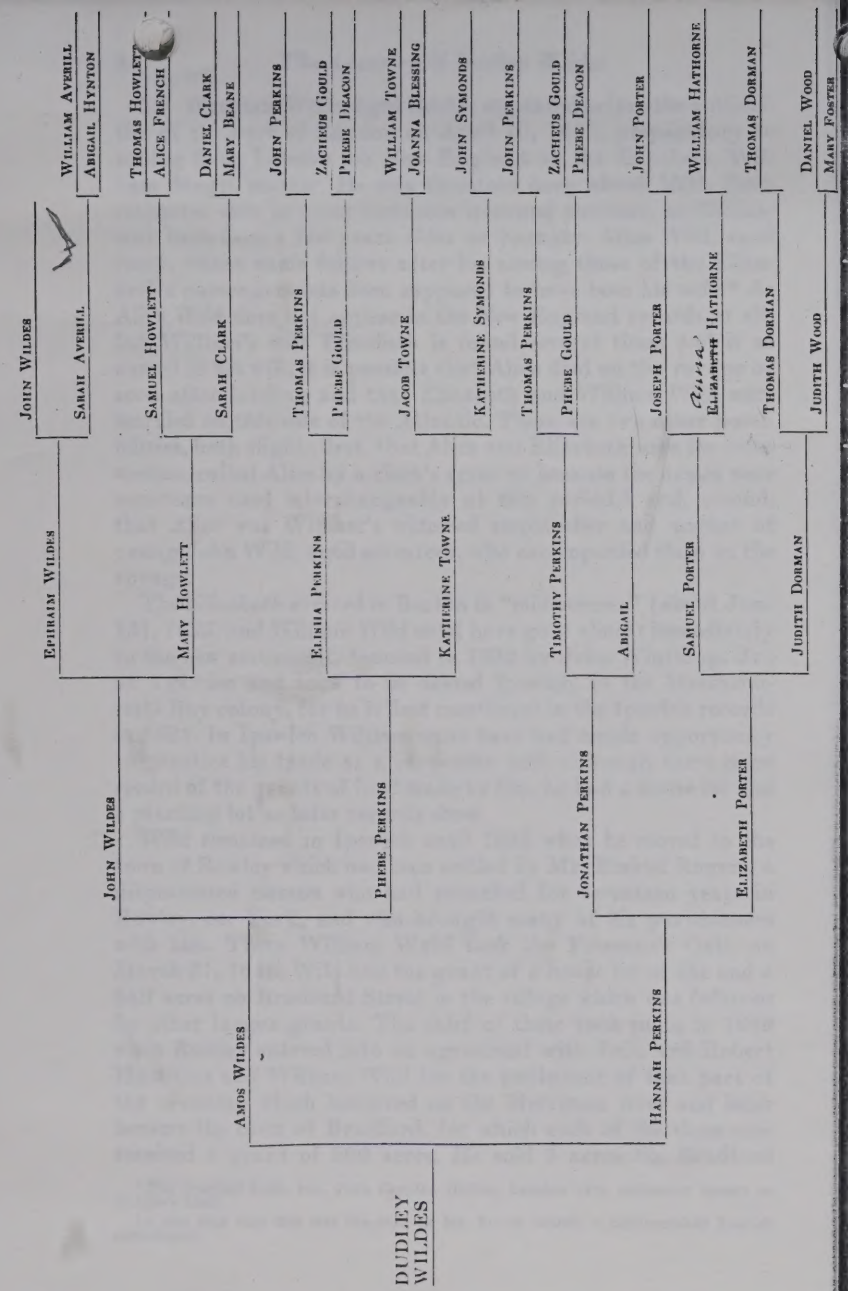
Sarah Averill, born in England, came to Ipswich MA as a child — dau. of Wm. & Abigail (Styles) Averill & sis. of our Wm. Jr. As wife of John Wildes (the real target) she was hung as a witch in the Salem witchcraft hysteria

THE ANCESTRY
OF
DUDLEY WILDES
1759-1820
OF
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

BY

WALTER GOODWIN DAVIS

PORTLAND, MAINE
THE ANTHOENSEN PRESS
1959



THE ANCESTRY OF DUDLEY WILDES

WILDES

Wild is an adjective of which, says the Oxford Dictionary, the primary meaning is uncertain. Ulterior meanings have developed with time. Certainly a very early meaning, if not the original one, was *sylvan* or *rustic*. As a surname it has a long history as one Ulric Wild was, according to Domesday Book, a tenant in the reign of Edward the Confessor, while in the medieval Hundred Rolls one finds Nicholas le Wild, Walter le Wilde and Emma la Wilde. Derived from a characteristic, the surname must have been applied to unrelated individuals, and it is found in many counties, but principally in the northern midlands.

Three closely related people named Wild emigrated to New England in 1635, sailing on the ship *Elizabeth*, from London. Unfortunately, while the parishes where some of their fellow passengers were certified to be conformists and not to be "subsidy men" or large tax-payers appear in the record, there is no indication therein of the English home of William, Alice and John Wild. Seven men from Kent, with their families and servants, were on the *Elizabeth*, but, although there were Wilds in that county, our family has not been found there. It would be tedious to go into detail about the several searches, all unavailing, which have been made to locate its English home.

That William and John Wild were brothers is proved by a deed of 1685 given by John's daughters and their husbands and John's son Ephraim, stating that William Wild in his will, "conditionally gave his lands unto his nephew John Wild, son of his Brother John Wild." John, the nephew, was then dead and his sisters and brother were his heirs. It is unusual that William in his will should have called his brother John his "kinsman," a term generally reserved for a more remote relationship. It is possible that they were half-brothers.

The name continued to be Wild during William's lifetime, and much of John's. The pluralization, Wilds and Wildes, began to appear, however, in the late seventeenth century and finally prevailed. Wild is last found in the Topsfield records in 1716/7.

1. William Wild, aged thirty, appeared before the authorities of the port of London on April 10, 1635, preparatory to sailing from London for New England on the *Elizabeth*, William Stagg, master. He was therefore born about 1605. Such estimates were in many instances in round numbers, so William may have been a few years older or younger. Alice Wild, aged forty, whose name follows after his among those of the *Elizabeth*'s passengers has been supposed to have been his wife.* As Alice Wild does not appear in the New England records at all, but William's wife Elizabeth is found several times and is so named in his will, it is possible that Alice died on the voyage or soon after landing and that Elizabeth and William Wild were married on this side of the Atlantic. There are two other possibilities, both slight: first, that Alice and Elizabeth were the same woman, called Alice by a clerk's error or because the names were sometimes used interchangeably at this period,† and, second, that Alice was William's widowed stepmother and mother of young John Wild, aged seventeen, who accompanied them on the voyage.

The *Elizabeth* arrived in Boston in "midsummer" (about June 15), 1635, and William Wild must have gone almost immediately to the new settlement, founded in 1633 by John Winthrop, Jr., at Agawam and soon to be named Ipswich, in the Massachusetts Bay colony, for he is first mentioned in the Ipswich records in 1635. In Ipswich William must have had ample opportunity to practice his trade as a carpenter and, although there is no record of the grants of land made to him, he had a house lot and a planting lot as later records show.

Wild remained in Ipswich until 1643 when he moved to the town of Rowley which had been settled by Mr. Ezekiel Rogers, a dispossessed parson who had preached for seventeen years in Rowley, co. York, and who brought many of his parishioners with him. There William Wyld took the Freeman's Oath on March 31, 1646. Wild had the grant of a house lot of one and a half acres on Bradford Street in the village which was followed by other larger grants. The chief of these took place in 1649 when Rowley entered into an agreement with John and Robert Hazeltine and William Wild for the settlement of that part of the township which bordered on the Merrimac river and later became the town of Bradford, for which each of the three men received a grant of 200 acres. He sold 5 acres "in Bradford

* *The Original Lists*, etc., John Camden Hotten, London 1874, commonly known as *Hotten's Lists*.

† I was told that this was the case by Mr. Bower Marsh, a distinguished English genealogist.

streete lots . . . having the highway on the east & the common on the west" to James Barker, tailor, in 1652.*

On May 22, 1651, the Massachusetts Bay government appointed William Wild and Joseph Jewett to lay out the bounds of Haverhill, which they did that summer, submitting a report of their task which was accepted on October 30, 1651.†

Wild returned to live in Ipswich before December 17, 1655, when he sold all of his holdings "at Merrimac river near Haverhill" to George Hadley of Rowley for £140. They were made up of his house and barn and 15 acres of land, 28 acres adjoining his house lot, 200 acres adjoining Rowley common, 1 acre at the end of Long hill, 2½ acres at the end of Johnson's creek, 2 acres at Johnson's pond, 5 acres at a place called Five Mile rock on the way from Haverhill to Rowley and 9½ acres of meadow. His wife Elizabeth released dower.‡

The deed to Hadley did not cover all of Wild's Rowley land for in 1661 he conveyed to Robert Andrews 70 acres of the "village land of Rowley" bounded by Andrews, Abel Langley and "shooteing down to Pye brook toward the northeast."§ Also in 1661 he conveyed to William Boynton by a very unspecific description "all my land lying upon the Merrimack river, with the privilidges thereof as it lyeth bounded, the vilage land eastward, the land of Thomas Palmer southward, Merrimack river westward and the land of William Jackson northward."‖ This would seem to conflict with the Hadley deed of 1655.

In 1655 Wyld sued Robert Swan for payment of carpenter's work on a house, and in 1656 he sued William Evans for failure to return a borrowed steer. Mr. John Cogswell acknowledged judgment to Wyld in 1656. He was elected by Ipswich to serve on Essex trial juries in 1656, 1661 and 1662. In the court of April, 1659, he was a witness against John Andrews "for taking tobacco contrary to law."

William Wild of Ipswich made his will on May 6 and it was proved on September 30, 1662. To his wife Elizabeth he left his house and all his land for her life, and after her death he gave them to "John wild the sonn of John wild of Topsfield my Kinsman." To his "kinsman" John Wild, Senior, of Topsfield, £10 "which he the sayd John wild hath in his hands of myne & doe order the bond I have of him for it to be rendered up unto him

* Ipswich Deeds, I: 126.

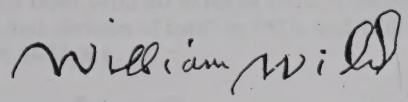
† *Records of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay*, III: 233, 246; IV; Part I: 76.

‡ Ipswich Deeds, I: 182.

§ *Ibid.*, II: 49.

‖ *Ibid.*, II: 90.

after my decease." To Robert Ames, £5. To Mark Warner, £5. To Hannah Lampson, £10. Residue to his wife Elizabeth Wild whom he appoints executrix. Overseers: loving friends Theophilus Willson, William White, Robert Lord, Senior. If his kinsman John Wild, Junior, shall depart this life before he becomes of age or before the house and land comes into his possession, then it shall be divided among the children of John Wild, Senior, unless the said John (Junior) leaves heirs, when it shall go to them. Witnesses: the three overseers. The legatees Robert Ames, Mark Warner and Hannah Lampson were probably apprentices and servants.



The inventory was taken by Theophilus Wilson and Robert Lord, Junior, on June 26, 1662. The house, orchard, the ground about it and a six acre planting lot were worth £46. He had a mare, three colts, two cows and two yearlings, three oxen, six hogs and three pigs. In the hall there were two little tables, three chairs, two forms, a stool, a cupboard, two chests and a box, three cushions, besides wooden ware, earthern ware and brass, pewter and iron utensils. He had a cloak, breeches, jacket and hat worth £6: 14: 4, a serge suit £1: 10: 0, a cloth coat and suit and other old apparell, two pairs of shoes, four pairs of stockings and seven shirts. The principal bedstead was fitted with curtains and valence, a feather bed, bolster, three pillows, blanket, coverlet and rug, while another bedstead had only a straw bed and flock bolster, a blanket and coverlet. His arms consisted of a corslet, a pike, a sword and a fowling piece. In addition there were listed the usual tools of a carpenter. Debts were due him of £71: 10: 0, while he owed only about £5. The "Summa Tottalis" was £225: 14: 6, a moderately large estate.*

Elizabeth Wild of Ipswich, the widow, made a prenuptial agreement with Richard Moore of Lynn on October 30, 1662. Moore was to have her estate to make use of and improve during their marriage, but she should have power to dispose of it at the time of her death. If Moore should die before her, he engaged himself to leave her £40 in addition to what she brought him. They were married on November 6, 1662. Moore made his will on November 29, 1688, and it was proved on September 24,

* Essex Probate, No. 29827.

1689. Elizabeth survived him and the will mentions their marriage contract, but no will of hers is found nor is the date of her death recorded. If she were the Alice Wild, aged forty, sailing on the *Elizabeth* in 1635, she would have been ninety-three in 1688, which is, of course, possible but not probable.

2. John[1] Wild, giving his age as seventeen, registered with the authorities of the port of London for the voyage to New England on the *Elizabeth* on April 11, 1635, one day later than William and Alice Wild had done so.* He was therefore born about 1618. Later in his life his age appears in depositions as forty in 1660, forty-six in 1665 and fifty in 1669, but these estimates were probably less accurate although the variation is slight. His first wife, whom he married about 1643, was Priscilla Gould who died on April 16, 1663. On November 23, 1663, he married Sarah Averill of Ipswich who was hanged for witchcraft on July 19, 1692. The wife of his old age was Mary Jacobs of Salem whom he married on June 26, 1693, and whose husband had shared Sarah Wilde's fate. He died in Topsfield on May 14, 1705, when he would have been about eighty-seven years old.

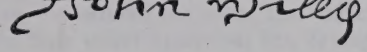
John went to Ipswich with his brother William and continued to learn the carpenter's trade. In 1637 the New England settlers subdued the Pequot tribe of Indians who were bitterly hostile to the English, and John Wild became a soldier, for which service he received 3s. from the town of Ipswich in 1639. Again in September, 1642, an expedition was organized to disarm Passaconoway, the Sachem of the Merrimac, and John, one of the twenty Ipswich soldiers, saw more military action.

After his marriage John moved to New Meadows, then a part of Ipswich but soon incorporated as Topsfield, and settled on a farm, possibly given him by his father-in-law Zacheus Gould, who was a great land-owner, or one granted him by the town of Ipswich. In any event, there is no record of how he obtained his first homestead. The house that he then built seems to have been where he lived for the rest of his life. It stood on the present Perkins Street at the fork of the road coming from Mile Brook bridge, in a pear orchard. Doubtless very simple at first, it was later a two-story house. It was taken down in 1835. In 1660 he bought from Richard Swaine of Hampton and his wife Jane,

* Also on the 11th William Whitredd, aged 36, his wife and son, and four young men, including John Wild, their ages running from 17 to 22, were the only passengers listed for the *Elizabeth*. Whitredd settled in Ipswich and was a carpenter, like William and John Wild. Was John possibly Whitredd's apprentice, brought to London by him? Whitredd is a very uncommon name, which I have found only once, in co. Suffolk. Perhaps it is a variant of Whitredge or Whitbread.

whose former husband had been John Bunker of Topsfield, a 100-acre lot which adjoined his own land toward the northeast.* Wild seems to have bought no more land, but as one of the earliest settlers he must have obtained several grants of common land. He was on the list of commoners in 1659.

His sales of property were mostly to his neighbors. In 1698/9 he testified that he had sold a small parcel to Francis Bates about fifty years ago (1649). He granted 20 acres to Robert Andrews in 1654, and in 1663 he conveyed to William Acie of Rowley, for £35, 32 acres at Bushy Hill and 8 acres of meadow, formerly Thomas Dorman's, at Snookes Hole, in Topsfield. John French bought from Wild 30 acres in 1672, Thomas Perkins 20 acres "in the first division of lots" in 1674, and William Perkins, Sr., 4 acres in 1685/6.†



The earliest book of Topsfield records was destroyed by fire in 1658, so we do not know what Wild's early services to the town were. In 1659 and 1686 he was one of a committee to run the highly controversial line between Salem and Topsfield, and in later years he was often employed to decide town bounds and lay out lots. He was constable in 1661 and 1662, trial juryman in 1679/80 and tythingman in 1682/3. He paid the 9th largest tax, thirty-one being on the list, in 1659, the 7th in 1668, and the 18th in the minister's rate of 1681, when one hundred and five men were taxed. In 1669 Topsfield owed John Wild £14: 16: 0, its largest debt, probably incurred for carpentry.

Although he was not admitted to full communion in the church until 1697, John was often employed in parish business. He was on committees to negotiate with Mr. Danforth to act as minister in 1680/1, "to discourse" with Mr. Capen in 1681, to lay out land for Mr. Capen and to seat the people in the meetinghouse in 1682. In 1689/90 "father John Wilds" was collecting the arrears in Mr. Capen's salary. He was "old father Wilds" in the records two years later. His second wife, Sarah, is on Mr. Capen's list of those who were already members of the church when he began his ministry.

The court records produce some minor suits and unimportant

* Ipswich Deeds, I: 649.

† Essex Deeds, 39: 3; Ipswich Deeds, IV, 271, 376; V: 291.

depositions. In 1646 William Whitredd sued Michael Cartrick and the unexplained verdict was that the plaintiff should pay John Wild 30s., the defendant 30s., and that John Wild was to pay the other 20s. to himself. Mr. William Paine, the Ipswich merchant, sued Wild for a shop account in 1652 and attached his house. The two younger children of Widow Elithorp of Rowley were to be paid their portions into the hands of John Wyldes in 1654 and John Picard, Thomas Elithorp's executor, brought Wyldes' receipt into court. It is interesting to speculate on the meaning of this transaction of which there is no other evidence. Were Wild and Elithorp kinsmen? Wild testified against Thomas Baker for "laughing in meeting" in 1678. When in 1679 the parson, Mr. Jeremiah Hubbard, sued Judith Dorman for slander, Sarah Wildes testified for the minister.*

Upon the restoration of the Stuarts in 1660, a long controversy arose between the English government and that of Massachusetts over the validity of the colony's charter. John Wilds was one of five Topsfield men who signed a declaration that they were utterly unwilling to yield either to a resignation of the charter or anything that should be equivalent thereto. It is difficult to reconcile this courageous act with the fact that Wild was one of the chief witnesses against his brother-in-law, Lieut. John Gould, who was charged with treason in 1686 for expressing the same sentiments but in a more forcible and indiscreet manner. This, and other evidence, indicate that the relationship between Wild and his first wife's family was not cordial.

Sarah Wild, John's second wife, was suspected of witchcraft by some of her Topsfield neighbors years before the terrible delusion of 1692, and most of the stories can be traced to the enmity of Mary Reddington, a very neurotic woman who was the sister of Priscilla Gould, John's first wife. It is also probable that the boundary disputes between the Putnams of Salem Village and the Townes of Topsfield produced bitterness against John Wild in the former faction, he having been officially active in running the hotly contested town lines.

The blow fell on the morning of April 22, 1692, when George Herrick, Marshal of Essex, rode up to the Wilds home and, in the presence of her husband and son, placed Sarah Wilds, then about sixty-five years of age, under arrest, charged with the crime of witchcraft. Ephraim Wilds was constable of Topsfield that year, and to him the marshal handed warrants for the arrest of four others in Topsfield and probably told old John

* *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, hereafter cited as Records and Files, Vols. I through VIII, by indexes.

Wilds that his daughter Sarah Bishop and her husband were also named in the warrant and were in custody in Salem Village. It was surely a tragic scene when Sarah rode away with Herrick, never to return to her home, and young Ephraim was left to discharge his sworn duty by arresting William and Deliverance Hobbs, Mary Easty and Nehemiah Abbot.

The formal complaint had been made to the magistrates on the previous day, April 21, by Thomas Putnam and John Buxton, alleging "Sundry acts of witchcraft donne . . . upon the Bodys of Anna putnam and Marcy Lewis belonging to the famyly of ye abovesd Thomas Putnam . . . and Mary Walcot ye daughter of Capt. Jonathan Walcot."

Sarah's examination before Justices Hathorne and Corwin took place on the day of her arrest in the Salem Village meetinghouse. When she entered the room the "afflicted" girls and women fell into their usual hysterical fits, crying that she was not at the bar but "on the beam" which ran across the room. Her replies to the leading questions of the magistrates were simple and dignified: "I am not guilty, sir," "I thank God I am free." Abigail Hobbs, daughter of William Hobbs of Topsfield, a juvenile delinquent who had been arrested and examined and had "confessed" several days before, had said that Sarah Wilds had brought her the Devil's book to sign. Asked by the judge what she had to say to this accusation, Sarah replied "I never saw the book in my life and I never saw these persons before." On such evidence the charge was held to have been confirmed and she was lodged in Salem jail. From there, in fetters and handcuffs, she was taken to Boston on May 13, somewhat later to Ipswich and finally back to Salem for her trial.

No detailed account of the trial, at which she was found guilty, and to which the examination was preliminary step, remains on record, but some of the evidence, in deposition form, is preserved. Also, the "confession" of Deliverance Hobbs, mother of Abigail, was doubtless in evidence. At her examination Deliverance had said that she was present at a meeting of witches in Mr. Parris's meadow at which Mr. George Burroughs preached and Goody Nurse and Goody Wildes administered a sacrament of blood and red bread.

Elizabeth Symonds in her deposition said that Goodwife Wilds in the shape of a cat had lain on her breast all of one night and that the presence of Goodwife Wilds on a lecture day had caused her so much pain that she fell down unconscious. John

Gould, John Wilds' brother-in-law, testified that when his sister Mary Redington was coming from Salem about fifteen years ago Goodwife Wilds (in spirit form) pulled her backward off her horse, also that hens given to her by Goodwife Wildes "went moping about till they died," and finally that, after Zacheus Perkins, for whom he was fetching loads of hay, told him to load it fast or else his Aunt Wilds would not let John carry it for she was angry with him, the loads slipped off and "I did thinke that it was done by Witchcraft." Thomas Dorman said that after Goodwife Wilds asked him "How do your geese thrive?," they pined away so that they were good for little. Humphrey Clark told of a spectral visit at midnight by a woman who seemed to be Goodwife Wilds. John and Joseph Andrews of Boxford had borrowed young John Wild's sythe in 1674 although his stepmother was unwilling to lend it. Having cut and loaded their hay their six oxen refused to draw, a wheel mired and they unloaded the hay for they said to one another that it was vain to strive for Goody Willes was in the cart. Rev. John Hale of Beverley testified that Goody Reddington "opned her griefs" to him, saying that Goody Wiles, her neighbor, bewitched her and afflicted her many times, and that Goody Wiles' stepson, John, had said that he believed his mother Wiles was a witch.

Sarah's husband and son did what little they could to save her. John Wilds testified that he had heard that Mary Reddington had "raised a report" that his wife had bewitched her. Wilds had gone to John Reddington and threatened to sue him for defamation, but Reddington begged him not to do so for it would only waste his estate and that in time his wife would stop her gossip. After this Wilds got his brother Averill to go to the Reddingtons and offer, if Mary Reddington had anything against his sister Wilds, to be a means of making peace. Whereupon Mary Reddington said that she knew no harm that Sarah had done her.

Ephraim, the son, made two depositions. In the first he said that, hearing that Elizabeth Symonds believed that his mother had done her a wrong, he questioned her and she replied that she had no reason to believe any harm of his mother except what Goody Reddington had said. Ephraim had been engaged to marry one of the Symonds daughters, but he broke it off and he believed that her testimony against his mother was Elizabeth's revenge. In the second deposition he stated that Deliverance Hobbs' accusation against his mother was her revenge for

his having, as constable, arrested her—"one might almost see revenge in her face, she looked so maliciously on me." As for his mother, he had never seen any sign in word or action of the crime of which she was accused. "She hath always instructed me well in the Christian religion and the ways of God ever since I was able to take instruction."

The desperate father and son traveled the road to Salem, Boston and Ipswich at least once and sometimes twice a week during the three months of imprisonment to see that she was fed and clothed and to give her such comfort as they could. The jail authorities supplied nothing. It was to no avail. The warrant for her execution was signed on July 19, 1692, and on the same day she was driven from the jail, standing in a cart with four other victims, including the noble Rebecca Nurse, to "Gallows hill" where they were hanged.

In 1703, the people of Massachusetts, including the magistrates and the clergy who had been so active during the delusion, began to experience revulsion against the method of trial of the accused and the character of the evidence on which they were convicted. This did not mean that their belief in the "horrible Witchcraft" and "the Influence and Energy of the Evil Spirits" in 1692 was in any degree lessened. By 1711 the General Court had reversed the conviction and attainder of most of the victims, including Sarah Wild, and some financial aid was bestowed upon their heirs which could not, as Ephraim Wilds said, compensate "for the los of so dere a friend which can not be made up."*

John Wild had conveyed on April 9, 1690, all of his property, real and personal, to his son Ephraim "in consideration of seven years service which I had of him when he might have been for himself," so that he had no estate to be administered.†

Children, born in Topsfield:

i. JOHN, probably b. about 1645; d. in 1677, *s.p.* In 1662, when he was about seventeen, he was left by the will of his uncle William Wild the latter's house and land in Ipswich, after the life estate of William's widow Elizabeth. When he was of age he made an unrecorded "conveyance unto John Harris of Ipswich, locksmith," of his interest in this property, and in 1685 his sisters and brother deeded their reversionary estate, as his heirs, to Harris for £26. This deed is of great importance to us as it establishes family relationships. The grantors were Edward Bishop and Sarah his wife, of Salem, Henry Lake and Priscilla his wife, of Topsfield,

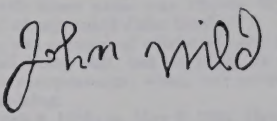
* All of the surviving documents dealing with Sarah Wild will be found, *verbatim*, in *Collections of the Topsfield Historical Society*, Vol. XIII.

† Essex Deeds, 13: 39.

Benjamin Jones and Elizabeth his wife, of Gloucester, Timothy Day and Phebe his wife, of Gloucester, and Ephraim Wild of Topsfield. They state that William Wild, formerly of Ipswich, by his will had conditionally given his lands to his "nephew John Wild son of his brother John Wild" of Topsfield. They as children of John Wild the elder claimed propriety in the said lands after the death of William Wild's widow. This "propriety" was still a future interest, as the widow, then wife of Richard Moore, was alive as late as 1688, but one suspects that she had already sold her life estate to John Harris. The property is described as "One dwelling house which said William Dec'd out of . . . and Rights of commons thereunto belonging, ye said house lott being one acre more or less," also 5 or 6 acres in the common field on the north side of Ipswich river, also a 3-acre upland lot on Hog Island.*

John Harris made his payment by deeding to the sisters and brother, on Dec. 14, 1685, the same day as their conveyance to him, 108 acres in Haverhill.†

John saw lengthy service in King Philip's War. He was first under Captain Poole but in the spring of 1676 Poole's soldiers were transferred to Captain Turner and John became a corporal. On June 24, 1676, the large sum of £9: 5: 6 was due him, and in the following August the colony paid him £6: 15: 6. Poole's company had fought in central Massachusetts, in the Hadley and Hatfield area, late in 1675.



John Wild's will, written Oct. 22, 1676, begins with a statement that he had received from his father that land which was promised to his brother Jonathan and himself, in satisfaction of £50 given them by his grandfather Gould, and "the intant of this is that my father may com to no trobell by any claime of my onkel gould." The land was part of that which was formerly Goodman Dorman's. "And now I being prest to go to the war, being desirous to satell things before I goo: not knowing how god may daell with me in respact to Returning againe . . . I have five sistors and one Brother, Sarah: Elizabeth: Phebe: Pracelah: Martha: and Ephraim and my will is that my land at Hauerill and at topsffeld and my mouabells be Equaly deuided amongst all the aboue named Sistors and brother." Executors: my honored father and my uncle John Redington. Witnesses: John How, Marah How.

John did return, but on June 22, 1677, about to go out for further service, he added a paragraph to his will: "This is to declare that I John Wild of topsfeald do purpose and intend that my formor will, writen in october: before my going to the Eastward shall stand good: prouided it be the will of god I retur[n] not again." Witnesses: John Herrick, Sarah Bishop. The will was proved on Sept. 25, 1677. The principal item of the inventory, taken by Thomas Perkins and William Averill, was the upland and meadow received from his father, the rest being his clothes, four sheep and wool, and a few carpenter's tools.‡

* Essex Deeds, 15: 119.

† Ipswich Deeds, V: 291.

‡ Essex Probate, No. 29826.

Very probably John was in the expedition commanded by Capt. Benjamin Swett which arrived at Black Point in Maine by sea on June 28, 1677, and on the next morning suffered a severe defeat at the hands of the eastern Indians, from forty to sixty of Swett's company being slain. John may have succumbed to wounds received in that engagement. In 1728 his nephew, Capt. John Wilds, held in his name a Narragansett lot at Souhegan West.

ii. JONATHAN, b. about 1651 (about 21 in 1672); d. in 1676, *s.p.* Even discounting the evidence, considering its source, it seems that he was somewhat peculiar in his youth. His uncle John Gould testified at the witchcraft trial of Jonathan's stepmother in 1692 that when Jonathan was ill "in a straing maner" at the house of his aunt Mary Reddington, she said he could go out at the chimney tops into the barn where he would kill her hens. Strange indeed! Rev. John Hale in a deposition said that Jonathan Wiles "about twenty yeares agoe or more did act very strangly Insomuch that I was invited to join Mr. Cobbet & others at Ipswich to advise & pray for ye said youth, whom some thought to counterfeit, others to be possessed by ye Devil. But I remember Mr. Cobbet thought he was under Obsession of ye Devil."

He was about twenty-one in 1672 when he and Edward Putnam, about seventeen, testified that, finding the highway at Beaver Dam flooded and part of the bridge carried away, they dared not ride their horses across the stream.*

Jonathan died before June 30, 1676, when his father was appointed to administer his estate. He was a casualty of King Philip's War. His possessions were small—his mare, saddle and gun, a book, and some few carpenter's tools. "There is . . . land about 15 acres which was to be Jonathans after his father's decease. This to be considered whether to be in the inventory or not." This inventory was taken June 28, 1676, by John How and William Averill.†

In the right of Jonathan Wild, his nephew Capt. John Wilds was given a lot in Narragansett No. 3, called Souhegan West, now Amherst, New Hampshire, in 1728. It was one of the townships granted to soldiers of King Philip's War or their heirs.

iii. SARAH, b. about 1651 (aged about 41 in 1692); m. Edward Bishop of Beverly about 1675; he d. in Rehoboth on May 12, 1711, and she survived him. In 1651 they were living in Topsfield when Bishop was assessed for the minister's rate, but before May 25, 1690, when Sarah was received into the Salem Village church from Topsfield, they had moved to that ill-fated community.

In 1692 Edward Bishop witnessed a witchcraft examination at Salem, after which at the inn, and again as they were riding home to the village, an "afflicted" Indian was very unruly and fell into a fit. Bishop "so managed him that he was very orderly," and in the second instance, when Bishop struck him with his stick "the Indian soon recovered and promised that he would do so no more: to which Bishop replied that he doubted not but that he could cure them all." Immediately thereafter he and his wife were accused, examined and thrown into Salem jail. One of their fellow prisoners was Mary Warren, originally one of the "afflicted" girls, but now herself a suspected witch. On May 13 the Bishops were taken to Boston and from the jail there they and Mary Easty sent a deposition to Salem saying that Mary Warren had told them that "her Head was distempered and that shee could not tell what shee

* *Records and Files*, V: 28.

† *Essex Probate*, III: 80.

said and the said Mary Tould us that when shee was well againe she could not say that shee saw any of the Apparissions." Before Oct. 7 the Bishops escaped from the Boston jail and on that day the Essex sheriff, George Corwin, came to their Salem Village home and seized their property, but their son *Samuel* was able to borrow £10 with which he redeemed it.*

The Bishops made their way to Rehoboth where all of their children eventually joined them except the eldest son, *Edward*, who also shook Salem Village dust from his feet and moved first to Ipswich and then to Newbury.

In Rehoboth Edward Bishop was an innkeeper and on his death in 1711 his will left his estate to his wife and his eight living children.

iv. ELIZABETH: m. Jan. 22, 1678, Benjamin Jones of Gloucester where they lived until about 1687 when they moved to that part of Enfield, Connecticut, which became Somers. Jones had been in Capt. Brocklebank's company in King Philip's War, stationed at Marlborough, for which service he received £1: 4: 0 on Aug. 24, 1676. Administration on his estate was granted to his son *Thomas Jones* of Enfield on July 6, 1718. His wife survived him.

v. PHOEBE, b. about 1653; m. July 24, 1679, Timothy Day of Gloucester; d. April 8, 1723, aged 70. Her husband's receipt for the gift from her grandfather Gould is as follows: "This may sarteft to houm it ma consern that I Timothy Day have reseued the full and just sum of my wife house name was Phoebe Wylds part of ye wish in riten bond of my unkel John Gould."

In 1692 she was accused of witchcraft and taken to Ipswich jail, the Salem jail being full, but on Sept. 24 she was released on bonds for her reappearance, which was never required as the delusion was expiring.

vi. PRISCILLA, b. April 6, 1658; m. May 9, 1681, Henry Lake of Salem; d. March 23, 1688, and he d. May 22, 1733, both in Topsfield.

On the day of his marriage Henry Lake settled his property on Priscilla and their issue, conveying to her, on the receipt of £24 from her uncle John Gold and £9 from her father, his whole estate in New England, agreeing not to give away more than 20s. per annum without her consent. The witnesses were Edward Bishop and Ephraim Wildes. This document was not acknowledged until Oct. 15, 1718, when it was stated that the land later conveyed to him by uncle John Gold was included.†

Henry Lake's lengthy will provided for his four children, *Gershom Lake*, *Priscilla Smith* and *Martha Peck*, all of Rehoboth, and *Eleazer Lake* of Topsfield, and twelve grandchildren. The legacy to his grandson Eleazer Lake was "to be paid toward his bringing up to Larning." It was dated Dec. 7, 1724.

vii. MARTHA, b. May 13, 1660. She was living and unmarried in 1682 when she (Martha Wiles) and John Putnam, aged about 25, testified in a case in which Joseph Gatchell was accused of "presumptuous evils which are next door to forgery."‡ The only other record of her found is contained in the deed of Edward Bishop, her brother-in-law, in which, in addition to the interest of his wife in young John Wild's estate, he conveyed "ye share Interest & Claim of Martha Wild which was ye right he bought of her." The deed was dated Dec. 14, 1685, but Martha's sale to Bishop may have

* *More Wonders of the Invisible World*, Robert Calef, edited by Samuel Fowler, 1861.

† Essex Deeds, 26: 215.

‡ *Records and Files*, VIII: 357.

taken place some years earlier. She may have died unmarried or she may have made an unrecorded marriage.

viii. NATHAN, b. Dec. 14, 1662; d. March 17, 1662/3.

By second wife:

3. ix. EPHRAIM, b. Feb., 1665.

3. EPHRAIM[2] WILDES (*John*[1]) was born in Topsfield in February, 1665 (6). He married Mary Howlett on March 18, 1689/90. Quartermaster Ephraim Wildes died on April 2, 1725, and his widow Mary survived until May 17, 1758, "an aged woman."

He lived on the paternal farm which had been given him in 1690 in consideration for his seven years of service to his aged father, and most of his later purchases and sales of land were transfers of small pastures or fractions thereof between him and his Perkins and French neighbors. He joined with three other Topsfield men in 1718/19 in selling for £40 to Jacob and Edmund Towne, Jr., town grants which had been made to their fathers in 1661 and 1664, and in 1724 he and Daniel Reddington conveyed to David Balch two "cottage lots" on the south side of Ipswich river in Topsfield which had been laid out in 1722.*

The tragedy which overwhelmed this young man when in 1692 his mother was tried and hanged as a witch has been told already. In one of the vain pleas to the court by which he hoped to save her, he attempts to counteract the evidence of Elizabeth Symonds, a Topsfield neighbor. He said that about four years before (1688), when he would have been twenty-two or twenty-three years old, he was courting one of the Symonds daughters, and, "as the maid towld me, hur mother and father were veriey willing" that he should have her. He heard a hint that Goodwife Symonds had said that she believed that his mother had done her a wrong, so he took with him his friend Mark Howe "that is now dead who dyed at the Eastward" and confronted Goodwife Symonds. She denied that she had any grounds to think evil of his mother "onely from what Goodiey Redington had said." This did not convince Ephraim and he left the Symonds house to return no more. He believed that Elizabeth Symonds' testimony against his mother was her revenge against him.†

After being elected to the minor offices generally filled by the younger citizens, Ephraim became constable in 1691/2 and was chosen a selectman in 1697/8, 1714, 1719/20, 1721/2, a tything man in 1702/3 and 1714/5, and overseer of the poor in 1719. Four times he perambulated the bounds between Topsfield and its neighbor towns, Ipswich, Salem and Boxford. He was a trial juror in 1705/6 and 1708, and a grand juror in 1712, 1718, 1721 and 1722. A corporal in the train-band in 1708, he was promoted to quartermaster by 1718. Also in 1718 he was on the committee to seat the people in the meetinghouse, and, with Mr. Isaac Peabody and Mr. Simon Bradstreet, Quartermaster Wildes was paid £25 by the town for building the bridge over the Ipswich river.

A family tradition says that shortly before his death he saw all of his surviving children, thirteen in number, at his fireside.

Ephraim Wildes made his will on April 2, 1725. To his wife Mary he left all his household goods, two cows, the liberty of one end of his dwelling house and the improvement of one-third of all his land so long as she remained his widow. If she married again she should be paid £20 by his sons and executors, John and Ephraim, and resign her dower to them. To his sons John and Ephraim all his lands and rights of land in common, all his cattle (except the two cows given to his wife), all his sheep and horses (except the black colt which he gives to his son Elijah), and all his utensils of husbandry, they to pay his just debts and such legacies as he ordered. To his sons Jonathan, Jacob, Samuel, Nathan, Amos and Elijah, £60 each to be paid two years after his decease or when they came of age. To his daughters Mary Perkins, Susannah Town, Dorothy Perkins and Priscilla, £20 apiece beside what they had already had. To his daughter Hannah, £30 at the age of twenty-one or upon her marriage. His sons John and Ephraim were not to hinder their mother in any of the privileges given her by his will. Witnesses: John Howlett, Joseph Andrews, Jacob Peabody. There is no inventory recorded or on file.*

Mary Wildes, widow, made her will April 28 and it was proved June 5, 1758. To her son Ephraim Wildes she left her old loom, the cupboard and the great table as "he hath ever found me with flax and wood." To her son Jonathan Wildes, 5s. To her daughters Priscilla Averell and Hannah Averell, the residue of her estate. She mentions the money she had lent to her son Nathan during his life. Executor: son-in-law Jacob Averell. Witnesses: Elisha Wildes, Martha Wildes, Zebulon Wildes.†

* Essex Deeds, 35: 270; 42: 264.
† Essex Court Mss.

* Essex Probate, 315: 235-236.
† *Ibid.*, No. 29842.

Children, born in Topsfield:

4. i. JOHN, b. June 25, 1690.

ii. MARY, bapt. March 13, 1691/2; m. Nov. 26, 1719, Thomas Perkins of "Caporpus" [Cape Porpoise], a Topsfield man who had moved to Maine. Cape Porpoise was part of Arundel, later named Kennebunkport, and Perkins became a prominent man in the community which was being resettled after the Indian Wars. There are many descendants. She died April 1, 1742, and her gravestone is still standing.

iii. EPHRAIM, bapt. Sept. 3, 1693; m. Jan. 31, 1730/1, Hepsibah Peabody; d. in Topsfield April 3, 1767; she d. Dec. 23, 1783. In Arundel there is a tradition that Ephraim and his brothers Jonathan, Jacob and Samuel were soldiers at the battle of Norridgewock in 1724 and on their way home visited their sister Mary Perkins at Cape Porpoise, all four returning there to settle. If he did settle in Arundel, he returned to Topsfield on the death of his father, from whom he inherited the family home, built by his grandfather, John Wild. He, in turn, left it to his son *Moses* Wildes. His estate was valued at £704: 5: 10, and the armor listed in the inventory may have been the corslet, pike and sword which had belonged to William Wild, the emigrant.

iv. JONATHAN, b. Oct. 21, 1695; m. about 1725 Elizabeth ———. As a young man he was in Arundel, Maine, before the Norridgewock expedition, for in 1767, when he was 72, he testified that he was familiar with Arundel in 1716.* He went home to Topsfield, where he was a carpenter, and was still there in 1730/1, but in the latter part of his life he returned to Arundel and was an innkeeper.

v. SUSANNAH, b. Oct. 20, 1697; m. April 12, 1722, Benjamin Towne as his second wife; d. July 5, 1736, about two months after she had given birth to triplet sons, *Edmund, Ezra* and *Elijah Towne,* all of whom survived to manhood. Towne's first wife had been Katherine Towne, his third, married May 2, 1738, was Mary Perkins and his fourth, married April 15, 1761, was Mary Clark. He died Feb. 11, 1772.

vi. SARAH, b. March 27, 1699; m. Jan. 21, 1718/9, Jonathan Perkins; d. Jan. 21, 1719/20, exactly a year after her marriage. (See page 96.)

vii. DOROTHY, b. Dec. 15, 1700; m. about 1725 John Perkins and d. before 1736. (See page 96.)

viii. JACOB, b. Aug. 31, 1702; m. Ruth Foster of Ipswich; d. in 1774 in Arundel where he was useful in the town government. With Joseph Averill, his cousin, he bought 450 acres and a sawmill in Arundel from James Mussey in 1727/8. He was called millman until 1733 when he sold his half of the mill to Thomas Perkins and in 1734 and 1735 purchased, with Moses Foster, 400 acres, also in Arundel, from Joseph and Benjamin Jeffrey of Lynn. In the last deeds he is called coaster and husbandman.† Administration on his estate was granted to his widow, Ruth Wildes, and his son *Jacob Wildes,* mariner, on Oct. 10, 1774.

ix. PRISCILLA, b. Aug. 12, 1704; d. Aug. 3, 1705.

x. PRISCILLA, b. March 3, 1706; m. about 1728, Jacob Averill, her cousin through both the Howletts and the Averills; d. May 17 (town record), May 22 (church record), 1799; he had d. June 15, 1791.

xi. SAMUEL, b. March 2, 1708; m. Elizabeth ———; d. in 1760. He settled in Arundel and was the town's schoolmaster for several years. By trade he was a carpenter. He bought 100 acres of land there from Jonathan Philbrook in 1728.* His will, made March 6 and proved July 7, 1760, left his property to his wife Elizabeth, sons *Samuel* and *John,* both minors, daughters *Mary, Hannah* and *Sarah,* all minors, daughter *Elizabeth Deshon* and granddaughter Susannah Weeks.

xii. HANNAH, b. Oct. 8, 1709; m. her cousin Nathaniel Averill Nov. 24, 1743, and d., his widow, May 22, 1790; he d. Aug. 17, 1751.

xiii. AMOS, b. June 28, 1711; d. July 25, 1726, eleven days after his brother John was appointed his guardian.

xiv. NATHAN, b. Aug. 5, 1713; d., unmarried, "of a complication of disorders," July 10, 1783. From the inventory of his estate it appears that he was a cooper by trade. In his sixty-ninth year he was adjudged *non compos mentis,* and Samuel Smith was appointed his guardian.

xv. JULEENEA (Juliana?), b. Feb. 21, d. March 21, 1716/7.

xvi. ELIJAH, b. Jan. 4, 1717/8; m. May 15, 1744, Anna Hovey; d. in Shirley April 6, 1791; she d. there March 16, 1806. He moved to Shirley, then a part of Groton, soon after his marriage, and when the Shaker religion was introduced into America by Mother Ann Lee, this family, among others in Shirley, was converted and the Shaker Village was built on his farm.†

* Supreme Judicial Court, No. 137226.

† *York Deeds,* 12: 251; 16: 105; 17: 78, 153.

4. JOHN[3] WILDES (*Ephraim*[2], *John*[1]) was born in Topsfield on June 25, 1690. He married about 1714 Phebe Perkins. Capt. John Wildes, gentleman, died on September 27, 1750, and Phebe Wildes, "widow, an aged woman" died on September 30, 1765.‡

Their father having left them all of his lands in common, John and Ephraim Wildes exchanged deeds on November 16, 1726, by which John granted to his brother his half interest in the Wildes home farm and Ephraim quitclaimed to John his half interest in other parts of their father's landed estate.§ John had already bought 10 acres from John Averill for £40 in 1714/5, slightly more than 3 acres from John Bradstreet for £37 and 2 acres from Dorothy Bradstreet, part of the farm of her late grandfather Simon Bradstreet, Esq., for £28 in 1718.‖

The Saltonstall heirs sold to John and his brother Ephraim 8 acres of meadow in 1731, and in 1733 John bought from his brother Jonathan, for £300, 17 acres and the buildings thereon

* *Ibid.,* 15: 211.

† *History of Shirley,* Seth Chandler, 1883.

‡ The marriage of John Wildes and Phebe Perkins is not recorded, but she has been identified by the familiar method of listing the Phebes born in Topsfield within a proper bracket of years and eliminating those whose marriage or death records are found. In the present case the fact that Phebe Wildes named her eldest daughter Katherine and a son Elisha, both names previously not used in the Wildes family, is strong evidence that she was that Phebe, daughter of Elisha and Katherine Perkins, born in 1690. In addition, Elisha Perkins and John Wildes acted as bondsmen for Elisha's brother.

§ Essex Deeds, 51: 207, 234.

‖ *Ibid.,* 30: 72; 36: 56; 43: 202.

AVERILL

Averill sounds like a place name, not unlike Haverhill, lacking the aspirate. There is no English parish so called, but possibly some smaller piece of land or a geographic point, such as a hill, bore the name. Avery, the alternative name in the early generations, is equally obscure. *Ave*, like Avon, is a river name, *haver* means oats, Haverhill being a hill where oats were grown, while *ever* was Old English for boar. None of these possibilities are very satisfactory, and the origin of the name remains a puzzle.

Chipping Norton, the Oxfordshire parish from where our Averill family came to New England, is a town of fair size with a large and handsome church. Some years ago I visited it, hoping that the parish register, which began in 1563, would give me additional information about the early generations. The parson was most courteous, but the sixteenth-century ink was so completely faded as to make the entries illegible. Possibly some photographic or acid treatment would be needed to enable the writing to be read. The parson showed me a brass tablet placed in the church by American Averills.

1. —— AVERY or AVERILL lived in the first half of the sixteenth century, presumably at Chipping Norton, co. Oxford, which was the home of two of his sons.

   i. JOHN, buried at Chipping Norton July 27, 1577. His will, dated April 25, 1577, was proved March 10, 1577/8. He directed that he be buried in the church of Chipping Norton, to which he left 10s. To the poor of the town, 20s. To my son Walter Averye. To John Trevis, a feather bed, etc. To Mathew Trevis, 13s. 4d. To William Trevis, Mathew Trevis' son, 12d. and all his children 12d. apiece. To every one of John Trevis' children, 12d. apiece. To William Trevis, 11s. 12d. To Philip Avery, Richard Averye and Edward Avery, my brother William's sons, 20s. apiece. To Katherine Newman, 20s. To my brother William Averie, 6s. To my sister Annes Crosley, 40s. To Katherine Trevace. Residue to my son George Averye, executor. Overseers: Michael Chadwell, Edward Walford, William Avery, Thomas Newman, William Trevis. Witnesses: Michael Chadwell, Edward Walford, Thomas Newman.*

   Children, living in 1577:

   1. *Walter.*
   2. *George.*

2. ii. WILLIAM.
   iii. ANNES; m. —— Crosley, or Crosby.

* Archdeaconry of Oxford. Series I, Vol. 8, p. 514.

2. WILLIAM[1] AVERY or AVERILL, of Chipping Norton, was possibly born about 1525. He was living in 1577 when he and his three sons were mentioned in the will of his brother John Avery. He would probably be the William Averill who was one of the principal burgesses of Chipping Norton when it was incorporated on February 27, 4 James I [1605/6].*

Children:

i. PHILIP; named in the will of his uncle John in 1577 and in the will of his sister-in-law, Judith Averell, in 1618; d. *s.p.* before Feb. 21, 1628, when a commission was issued to his nephew (*"nepote d fratre"*) William Averill to administer his estate. His nuncupative will, made in 1627, and witnessed by John Norgrove, Samuel Averill, Isabell Newmann and Laurens Ellmes, left all of his goods to his cousin William Averill with a special charge to pay the testator's debts and to dispose of the remainder amongst the kinsfolk of the said William Averill.†

ii. RICHARD; named in the will of his uncle John in 1577; presumably the Richard Averill of Chipping Norton who made his will Feb. 28, 26 Elizabeth [1583]. The will, which left all of his goods to his wife and executrix (not named) to bring up his children, was proved May 15, 1584, and a commission issued to John Shaw. The witnesses were John Lancaster, clerk, John Lewes and others.‡

3. iii. EDWARD.

3. EDWARD[2] AVERY or AVERILL (*William*[1]), of Chipping Norton, was possibly born about 1550. He married Judith ——. He was named in the will of his uncle John in 1577. He was buried May 7, 1617, and his widow Judith Averill, survived him one year.

The will of Edward Averie of Chipping Norton, made April 28, 1617, was proved September 25, 1617. To his children John, William, Thomas, Samuel, Edward and Margaret Averie he left a platter apiece. After the payment of his debts and funeral charges, the residue was given to his wife Judith, executrix. Overseers: loving brothers-in-law Richard Berrie and Thomas Hiat. Witnesses: Richard Berrie, Thomas Hiat, Richard Heidon.§

Judith Averell, widow, of Chipping Norton, made her will on October 20, 1618, and it was proved February 20, 1618(9). To her eldest son John and her sons Thomas and Samuel Averell she left £1 each, to be paid by her son Edward Averell when he should be twenty years of age. In consideration of these payments Edward was to have her home and appurtenances "that

* *The Visitation of Oxfordshire*, Harleian Society, V, p. 261.
† Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 10 Ridley.
‡ Archdeaconry of Oxford, Series I, Vol. 10, f. 193.
§ Consistory Court of Oxford, Series II, Vol. 2, f. 371.

John Coxe late lived in." To her son John, the bedstead which is in the house with a flock bed and a flock bolster, a feather bolster, a pair of hempen sheets, a coverlet, a little brass pot, posnet of pot brass, a platter and a "pottenger." To her son Thomas, a platter, a "pottenger," two silver spoons, a little kettle and a posnet. To her son Samuel, the bedstead in the shop chamber, the second best "bee bedstead," standing in the chamber over the parlor, the worst feather bed, a feather bolster, a flock bolster, the best coverlet, two pairs of sheets, her second best brass pot, her second best kettle, a posnet of pot brass, two silver spoons, two platters, the table board she bought of William Higgons, a little kettle, three of the biggest coffers in the chamber over the parlor, a pewter candlestick, the liquor pan that his father used, three table napkins, two joined stools and the best cupboard in the hall. To her son Edward, two bedsteads in the chamber over the parlor, the best and third chest in the parlor, the coffer that was his father's, the best flock bed, a flock bolster, a feather bolster, two pair of sheets, the second best coverlet, the third brass pot, the third brass kettle, a posnet of pot brass, a little kettle and a little candlestick, two platters, two silver spoons, the table board in the shop chamber, the brass pan that was Thomas Carreck's, three table napkins, two joined stools and the other cupboard in the hall. To her daughter Margaret, "my greene say curtains with the frindge that belongeth to them, the vessell that we call the Corsell, a gallon kettle, and one of the best silver spoones and the ware that I leave unfouled, my best gown, my best peticoat," her best apron, her best kerchief, her best smock and her second best gown. To Robert Berry, her sister's son, and to Thomas Berry, his brother, 5s. each. To Sara their sister, 10s. and "more to Thomas a cracked silver spoon." To Alce Russell, a platter and a brazen candlestick. To her sister Crosbee, a gown and a petticoat, and to every one of her children 12d. To her brother Phillippe Averell, her husband's best doublet. To the poor of the town, 10s. Residue to her son William, executor. Overseers: Thomas Hiatt, Richard Berrye, to each of them 3s. 4d. Her sons Samuel and Edward to have eight quarters of malt that is at William Slatters to be divided equally. To her son Samuel, his father's best cloak, and to Edward his other coat or jacket. To each of them a "Dowghe Kever." To her son Edward Averell, a "Hobbert." Witnesses: Richard Berry, Thomas Hiat, —— Heidon, John Timson.*

* *Ibid.*, Series II, Vol. 2, p. 417.

Children, living in 1618:

i. JOHN.
4. ii. WILLIAM.
iii. THOMAS.
iv. SAMUEL; witnessed his uncle Philip's will in 1627.
v. EDWARD.
vi. MARGARET.

4. WILLIAM[3] AVERILL (*Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was born about 1595, presumably at Chipping Norton where on November 26, 1618, he married Abigail Hynton.* He died in Ipswich, Massachusetts, between June 3, 1652, and March 29, 1653.

Averill was one of the bailiffs of Chipping Norton in 1634. On September 8, 1634, Thomas Hyatt of Chipping Norton made his will leaving to William Averie and William Diston his messuage in the west end of Chipping to provide a preacher to preach five sermons a year. The will was not proved until 1644 when Averill had emigrated, so he was not called upon to administer this Puritan trust.†

The year of the Averill family's emigration is not known. They were still in Chipping Norton in September, 1634, and the first mention of William Averill in New England is on March 2, 1637(8), when Ipswich, where he settled, granted him six acres of planting ground on the further side of Muddy river, and twenty acres of upland and six acres of meadow at Chebacco, then a part of Ipswich but now the town of Essex. Presumably he had been given a house lot in the town at some previous time, and it is probable that he received this unrecorded grant in 1635 or 1636. This lot, whereon the family lived, was on the northeast side of the Ipswich river at the "great cove" below the falls, and contained three acres.‡ William was recorded as a commoner of Ipswich in 1639 and 1641, sued Thomas Newman for debt in 1646, and in 1648 he subscribed the Major Denison's salary.

In March, 1646, the town bargained with William Averill (possibly the son William, who would have been of age within three months) "to keep the herd of goats on the North side of the River, to begin the 29th of this present month: and to have for his pains 5s 6d the week, to have 6d a head at their first going out and the rest at the end of his time, of this pay 3d for

* In the tabular pedigree in the supplement to *The Averill Family* Abigail Hynton is said to have come from the parish of Bicester, co. Oxford, but there is nothing in the text to support the statement.

† Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 91 Seager.

‡ The location is shown on Diagram No. 1 in *Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*, Thomas F. Waters.

every head to be paid in butter or wheat, only the last month he is to have but 3s 6d a week."

William Averill made his will on June 3, 1652, and it was proved March 29, 1653. He directed that he be buried in the burying place of Ipswich. "And for my outward estate being but small I doe give vnto my children each of them being seven.* in number the some of five shillings a peece & the rest of my estate my debts being discharged I give vnto Abygal my wife whom I make sole Execotrix." Witnesses: Andrew hodges, Renold ffoster.† The inventory, taken by the two witnesses to the will, was indeed small, amounting only to £40.

The widow Abigail Averill survived her husband only two years and died intestate, apparently without having settled her husband's estate. Her son William swore to the full inventory, again taken by Hodges and Foster, on March 27, 1655. The house and lot was valued at £12, the six-acre lot at Muddy river at £4, "the pequett [Pequot] lot" of seven acres at £6 and six acres of meadow at £5. It would seem that William had sold the twenty acres of upland at Chebacco before his death as it was not listed in either inventory. The Pequot lot, one of those granted to Ipswich soldiers who took part in the Pequot expedition of 1637, among whom Averill is not listed, had probably been bought. The house was very sparsely furnished, but contained a good supply of brass, pewter and iron utensils, bedding and clothing. Interesting items are "a hour glase," a corslet, two bibles and two other books, unnamed, and "a hatt bruish." The total was £77: 04: 11, but there were debts of £13. Not included was "a frame raysed & something done to it to be (considered) whether it be the estate of the widdows or otherwise."‡

William Averill's will states that he was survived by seven children. Six were baptized in Chipping Norton and we know the name of a seventh, a daughter Sarah. The three daughters whose baptismal records we have may not have lived and others may have been born in Ipswich, but as three sons and one daughter we know to have been living in 1653, it is probable that there were three other daughters, married to Ipswich men, of whom we have no record. It has been suggested that James Everill of Boston, an adult in 1634, Thomas Avery of Salem, an adult in 1637, and Abiel Everill of Boston who married in 1655 were children of William Averill, but it is most unlikely, the first two

* First written six, but crossed out.

† *Probate Records of Essex County*, I: 151.

‡ *Ibid.*, I: 201.

being much too old to have been offspring of the Averill-Hynton marriage.

Children, six baptized in Chipping Norton:

i. ABIGAIL, bapt. Oct. 17, 1619.
ii. MARY, bapt. Oct. 14, 1621.
iii. HANNA, bapt. Sept. 28, 1623.
5. iv. WILLIAM, bapt. June 26, 1625.
v. SARAH, b. about 1627. She was in court in November, 1649, accused of too great intimacy with Thomas Wardell. Wardell was not in court with her, and the only other record of him is his subscription to Major Denison in 1648, so his Ipswich residence was of short duration. She was again presented for the lesser offense of wearing a silk scarf in May, 1663. She married John Wildes, as his second wife, Nov. 23, 1663. (*See Wildes.*)
6. vi. THOMAS, bapt. Jan. 7, 1630.
vii. JOHN, bapt. ——— 11, 1632. He testified in court, March, 1654, that he had been dwelling with Goodman Cumins the last year, the case dealing with a stolen heifer. He was fined in April, 1656, for striking Jonas Griggs several times in the meeting house "in time of the public ordinance on the Sabbath day." Also in 1656 he sued Mr. Daniel Eppes for not returning a cow which Eppes had had to winter. In 1659 Sarah Marshall came to the court to answer the charges of John Averill, but, as he did not appear, she was discharged. He was probably at Wells, where his brother Thomas soon settled. John Avril was a Wells witness in 1660, signed a petition of Wells men to the Massachusetts General Court, asking the court to restore authority over them in 1664, and sued two Portsmouth men in 1665 and 1666. The last record of him is found in 1667 when John Alcott was granted costs because John Averill had failed to prosecute an action against him. There is no record of a wife, but see Samuel and Joseph Averill, page 48.

5. WILLIAM[4] AVERILL (*William*[3], *Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was baptized at Chipping Norton, co. Oxford, June 26, 1625, and was about ten years of age when the family emigrated. He married Hannah Jackson in Ipswich on July 31, 1661. Averill was a housewright by trade. He died in Topsfield on April 23, 1691. She was living in 1701/2, but her death is not recorded.

The first record of Averill appears in the court of May, 1649. He and his brother Thomas with two other men, having been duly notified, failed to "watch," that is to do sentry duty, and were fined quite properly. He was a witness against Theophilus Salter, accused of lying, in 1654. In 1661 Serg. Richard Jacob sued him for failing to complete a new house which Averill had contracted to build for Jacob in 1659, and asked that Averill's bond be forfeited.

In 1663 Averill left Ipswich for Topsfield, an inland town which had been set off from Ipswich in 1650, and there he bought from Daniel Clarke a farm of about one hundred acres on which

was a house with outbuildings, an orchard, meadow land and woodland. In 1667 the town granted him and Daniel Borman permission to dam Mile brook in order to flood their meadows. In 1675 and 1683/4 he was on the county's trial jury, was one of the committee to seat the people in the meeting house in 1675, was chosen commissioner by Topsfield to represent the town at a meeting in the shire town in 1684, and was a selectman in 1688.

The Topsfield church was not fortunate in its early parsons. The incumbent in 1670, Mr. Thomas Gilbert, was presented "for suspicion of being overtaken with drink," and William Averill "late constable of Topsfield," addressed the court, he having been charged with "base carriages" openly in the congregation for doing no more than he apprehended was his duty: "About the 14th of the 9th month last Mr. Gilbert being about to publish an order from the gen[eral] court for a day of thanksgiving, as afterward appeared: hee was pleased to say that on the 4th of the next month the last generall court . . . had given order for a day of thanksgiving, whereupon one that was present Replyed 'Sir, you mean the 4th day of the next week.' I being present saw there was a mistake in bowth [and] I accounted it my duty in conscience to my oth to endeavor to prevent furder inconvenience at that time and place: made bold to say it is the 4th day of this week as I had been informed to which mr. gillbert Replyed 'I blesse god I am not drunk; o base base unworthy cariages to catch at a ministars words. let them that are more godly and judicious speke that are church members.' If I have desarved justly to be so villifyed in the face of an assembly for this cause I desire freely to leave it to the court to determine." Other witnesses attributed Mr. Gilbert's conduct to drink, while several more charitably laid it to his "distemper," he being "not as composed as he used to be." The court admonished him.* It is obvious from what Mr. Gilbert said, that Averill was not a church member.

In 1680, another parson, Mr. Jeremiah Hobart, was haled before the court at Ipswich and fined. Hobart was dissatisfied with the provision made for him, and William Averill testified that in the evening, after Topsfield town meeting, several of the neighbors went up to Mr. Hubard's and Averill noticed that the parson was displeased with the town for not accepting the propositions he had made to them. There was some mention made of the parsonage, and Mr. Hubberd said "I would that [the] parsonage were a fire and som of them int," to which Averill made

* *Records and Files*, III: 244.

so bold as to reply: "Sir, I hope you doe not spake now Just as you thinke." Isaac Cumins, Sr., added that Mistress Huberd replied to William Averill, "Noe, he Does not mean soe."*

William Averill's will, dated April 15, 1690, was proved June 30, 1691. He left to his eleven children, £6 apiece to be paid as they were or should come of age. His lands, housing, stock and household goods to his dear and loving wife, to be improved for the mutual relief and comfort both of her self and family. On his wife's death, if his sons John and Nathaniel were then living, they should each have £10 out of the value of the house before any division be made; then his lands, housing and the rest of his estate should be equally divided among his children then living, the lands and housing to belong equally to his sons. His son Nathaniel might use the shop tools. Executrix: his wife, during her widowhood. If she shall see fit to change her condition, she shall take two of her sons whom she shall judge best able and most faithful to join with her in the executorship. Witnesses: John Wilds, Sarah Wilds. The inventory, taken by Samuel Howlett and Daniel Redington, amounted to £589.† The widow, who lived with her son John, and the children made a mutual agreement for the division and settlement of the estate on February 4, 1701/2.

Children, all but the first two recorded in Topsfield:

i. WILLIAM, b. at Ipswich May 1, 1662; m. Mary ——— who d., his widow, in Topsfield March 14, 1728/9.
ii. JOHN, b. in 1663;‡ m. June 8, 1710, Anne Greensleet; d. in Topsfield in 1719/20.
iii. NATHANIEL, b. Oct. 13, 1664; m. (1) Dec. 13, 1698, Sarah Howlett who d. July 11, 1729; m. (2) June 17, 1730, Lydia French who d. May 31, 1746; d. in Topsfield April 3, 1751.
iv. JOB, b. Jan. 1, 1666/7; m. Feb. 1, 1702/3, Susanna Brown; d. in Middleton in 1730.
v. HANNAH, b. Dec. 18, 1667; probably d. unmarried.
vi. EBENEZER, b. Oct. 14, 1669; m. (1) Nov. 30, 1697, Susanna Hovey who d. Nov. 11, 1699; m. (2) Dec. 31, 1700, Mehitable Foster of Ipswich; d. Dec. 22, 1716, at Topsfield.
vii. ISAAC, b. Jan. 26, 1671/2; d. June 11, 1680.
viii. THOMAS, b. Dec. 9, 1672; m. Jan. 27, 1701/2, Mary Baker; d. in Preston, Conn., before Nov. 11, 1734. He was a soldier under Capt. John Hill at Wells, 1693-1694.
ix. ABIGAIL, b. March 8, 1673/4; m., int. July 6, 1699, Jonathan Bishop.
x. EZEKIEL, b. July 24, 1675; d. young.

* *Ibid.*, VII: 362.

† Essex Probate, 303: 52.

‡ The date of John's birth, as given in the family genealogy and by Mr. Sidney Perley in *The Essex Antiquarian*, Vol. 4, p. 129, is Jan. 1, 1666. There is no such record in the Topsfield town book, and I feel certain that it is an error. In the document by which William Averill's estate was divided by his widow and children in 1701/2, John's name appears between William and Nathaniel, and I believe that that is where he belongs. By so placing him the eight sons are listed in strict order of age.

xi. PAUL, b. June 21, 1677; m. (1) March 27, 1706, Sarah Andrews; m. (2) Feb. 3, 1736, at Wenham, Mary Symonds; moved to Killingly, Conn.
xii. SILAS, b. May 1, 1679; d. young.
xiii. ISAAC, b. Nov. 10, 1680; m. at Rehoboth, May 16, 1709, Esther Walker; d. in New Preston, now Washington, Conn.
xiv. MARY, b. 168-; m. Feb. 16, 1709, Silas Titus; d. Feb. 9, 1729/30, in Preston, Conn.

6. THOMAS[4] AVERILL (*William*[3], *Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was baptized in Chipping Norton on January 7, 1630. He married in Ipswich on December 8, 1657, Frances Collins who died before 1672 when his wife was Hannah, unless Frances was so called in error. He died in York before October 7, 1714, when administration of his estate was entrusted to his son Job. His widow survived him one year.

While he was still in Ipswich, Thomas was sued for debt by John Andrews in 1658 and gave evidence in two unimportant court cases in 1657 and 1658. By 1663 he had joined his brother William in Topsfield where in that year he was delinquent in paying his share toward the building of a new meetinghouse. He was taxed in the town in 1668.

By 1671 Averill had settled in Wells, Maine, far inland near the Berwick line, where he bought from Jonathan Hammond two hundred acres of upland and ten acres of fresh meadow "at a place Commonly Called Maryland" on October 22, 1671.* Here he built a house, referred to in a Cloyes deed in 1673. On February 23, 1673/4, he sold this entire purchase to Francis Littlefield, Sen.† On January 31, 1678, the town of Wells granted him two hundred acres, which he held until October 10, 1689, when he conveyed it, "comonly known by ye name of Tatnack . . . about six miles from ye Town of Wells, . . . about a Quarter of a mile from ye place where my house Once stood," to Francis Littlefield, Sen.‡ Presumably the house had been destroyed by Indians. Twenty days later Littlefield sold the land to Nathaniel Rust, Sr., of Ipswich.

From his inland location Averill came down to the coast. On June 5, 1680, he bought fifty-six acres at Cape Neddick from Andrew Everest, and on July 10, 1683, from Peter Weare "a necke of Land" of twenty-six acres "one Mile on the Eastward side of Cape Naddack River beginning vpon the South side of a Small pond of Water & from thence vpon a Streight Lyne unto

* York Deeds, III: 11.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Ibid.*, VIII: 173.

a Percell of Low Land, known by the name of burnt Marsh brooke, & so bounded by the sea, vnto a Small Coue where the fresh water runnes into the sea."* This land was long known as Averill's Neck.

In 1672 Hannah, wife of Thomas Averell, and Thomas Averill of York, aged about 36, testified in the case of Anthony Lamy, a Portuguese mulatto physician, who was accused of causing the death of John Gooch by giving him a strong medicine.

Administration on the estate of Thomas Averill was granted to his son Job on October 7, 1714. From Job's account we learn that Thomas and his family spent the years of the Indian War at Chebacco. Job moved his father and mother, their household goods and stock back from Chebacco to Cape Neddick in his sloop, (£6). Although he gives no dates, this was possibly during the false peace for he moved them later from Cape Neddick to York and finally back again to Cape Neddick, (£3). He also makes entries: "To Taking Care and supplying my father and mother in their old age about seven years in ye time of ye War" (£21), "Expense on my father in his last Sickness and his funeral" (£3), and "To taking care of my mother and Providing necessaryes in the Time of her old Age until her Death, near one year, and her funeral Expenses" (£13).†

Apparently Job was dilatory in closing the estate, for on January 26, 1725/6, Benjamin Averill, mariner, and Ebenezer Lufkin and Sarah, his wife, all of Gloucester, petitioned the Judge of Probate of York County, stating that with their elder brother Job Averill of York, fisherman, they are the only surviving children of Thomas Averill, and that Job took administration eleven years ago but "does unjustly delay and neglect to bring his account in to your Honour." They pray that he be cited to do so and appoint Mr. Jacob Curtice of York as their agent. The judge, on August 27, 1726, ordered that two shares of the land at Cape Neddick be given to the heirs of Job, who had died in the interval, and one share to each of Benjamin Averill and Sarah Lufkin. No personal property is mentioned.

Children:

i. SARAH, b. March 23, 1666, in Topsfield; m. Ebenezer Lufkin of Gloucester.

ii. SAMUEL (probably);‡ administration on the estate of Samuel Averil, late of York, who died in Boston, was granted to his brother Joseph Averill on Jan. 16, 1690/1.*

iii. JOSEPH (probably); d. *s.p.* before 1725/6.

iv. JOB, b. about 1671; m. Mary Preble of York where he died July 5, 1726, aged about 55. Coaster and fisherman.

v. BENJAMIN; m. Mary Chamblet on July 24, 1702, in Boston; a mariner of Gloucester; d. in 1746.

* *Ibid.*, II: 87, 132.

† York Probate, II: 94.

‡ Another possibility is that he and Joseph were sons of John[2] Averill of Wells.

* Suffolk Probate.

PERKINS

It has been stated in print that "there is no reason to doubt" that the Perkins family descended from Pierre de Morlaix who flourished in the reign of Richard II and had a son called Henry Pierrekins, and a grandson John Perkins. As a matter of fact there is every reason to doubt it and surely nothing is offered that even remotely approaches proof. Perkins is of course a patronymic from Pierre or Pier with the addition of the diminutive *kin*, but there were doubtless many little Piers or Peters scattered about England, and of no kinship to each other, when surnames became common. The New England family is fortunate to be able to establish its origin in a substantial yeoman family of Hillmorton in the county of Warwick.

1. Thomas[1] Perkyns, of Hylmoreton, possibly born about 1475, made his will on April 3 and it was proved on April 21, 1528. He directed that he be buried in the church of St. John the Baptist before the Rood, and that his mortuary be as the custom and manner was. To the high altar, 8d. To the mother churches of Coventry and Lichfield, 4d. each. To the parish church of Hillmorton, 6s. 8d. To his wife Alice, all his lands and tenements in the towns of Fylds, Hillmorton and Lylborne (co. Northampton) as long as she continueth in widowhood. If she marry, Henry, his son, shall have the said lands and tenements, but if he die without lawful issue, they shall remain to Jone and Jelyan, his daughters, and their heirs. If they die without issue, the tail lands and tenements shall remain to the next heirs and the fee simple lands and tenements to the inhabitants of the town of Hillmorton for ever, to the best use that can be provided for the pleasure of God and for the health of his soul and all Christian souls. Residue to his wife Alice and Thomas Clerke, executors. Supervisors: George Sale and Richard Smith, to whom 40s. between them for their labors. Witnesses: Sir John Grendon, vicar of Hillmorton, Sir John Stookes, Sir Thomas Bolland, William Bayle, Richard Horne, John Cumpton, Roger Jones and others.*

The will of Alice Perkyns of Hillmorton, widow, was dated July 31 and proved October 15, 1538. She asked that she be buried in the church of St. John the Baptist. To Jeyn Sleyter, her daughter. To Juliana Cumpton, her daughter. To Henry Perkyns, her son and executor. Supervisors: John Stokys, clerk,

* Lichfield Registry.

Thomas Clerke, Richard Smyth. Witnesses: John Brendon, clerk, George Dobbe, William Freman, Thomas Dunkele, Richard Bassett.*

Children:

2. i. HENRY.
ii. JOAN; m. ——— Sleyter before 1538.
iii. JULIAN; m. (Thomas?) Cumpton before 1538.

2. HENRY[2] PERKINS (*Thomas*[1]) was presumably born in Hillmorton about 1500. He made a will which is missing, but on June 16, 1546, it was proved by Simon Clare, Thomas Cumpton and Richard Balye, the executors, he being named as Henry Perkyns late of the parish of Hilmorton, deceased. It is stated in an abstract made in or before 1894 that "Thomas Perkyns, the son, is mentioned," but in a recent abstract this does not appear.†

Child:

3. ?i. THOMAS.
?ii. WILLIAM; mentioned in the will of his brother Thomas in 1588. A William Perkins was buried in Hillmorton on April 1, 1590.
?iii. JOAN; administration on the estate of Joan Perkins, of Hillmorton, was granted to Thomas Perkins, her brother, on June 17, 1578.‡

3. THOMAS[3] (*? Henry*[2], *Thomas*[1]) was presumably born in Hillmorton about 1525. As he leaves a legacy in his will to his "brother Kebble's wife," his wife Alice may have been Alice Kebble, but there are, of course, other possibilities. Four Kebble wills of the period and locality have been abstracted without identifying her. Thomas Perkyns was buried at Hillmorton on March 23, 1591/2, and an Alice Perkyns, probably his widow, on August 20, 1613.§

The will of Thomas Perkyns the elder, of Hilmorton, was made September 15, 1588, and proved May 11, 1592. He asked to be buried in the parish church or churchyard, and gave for the relief of the poor of Hillmorton 10s. To every godchild, 6d. To his son John and his heirs male, his house, messuage or tenement in Hillmorton late in the tenure of Thomas Bassett, with an orchard, a close, one back-side of the tenement and one half-yard of arable land with meadows, pastures and commons thereto belonging, with successive remainders to his sons Edward and his heirs male, his son Luke and his heirs male and a final remainder to his own right heirs. To his eldest son Henry Perkyns, all the residue of his houses, lands, tenements and hereditaments. To Alice "now my wife," all his household stuff, furniture in the parlor or chamber where we used to lie (one coffer with his evidences excepted), and the use of the said chamber during widowhood. To his son William Perkyns, 10s. To his son Thomas Perkyns, 10s. To his son Edward Perkyns, £40 four years after his death. To his son Luke Perkyns, £40 six years after his death. To his son Isacke Perkyns, £40 ten years after his death. To every one of his sons' children, a ewe and a lamb. To his brother Kebble's wife, a ewe and a lamb. To Thomas Kebble, a lamb. To his brother William Perkyns, a ewe and a lamb. Residue to son Henry Perkyns, sole executor. Witnesses: Edward Tomson, Edward Heres, Thomas Bottre, Nicholas Duell, William Kebbell, Thomas Heres. The inventory was in the sum of £192: 10: 0, and was taken March 29, 1592, by Edward Compton, Richard Smyth and Thomas Garfield.*

Children:

4. i. HENRY.
ii. JOHN; m. Elizabeth Shaw, who was buried July 4, 1603. John Perkins, of Hillmorton, husbandman, made his will Dec. 17, 1601, and it was proved June 6, 1601/2 (*sic*). He leaves legacies to his wife Elizabeth, his executrix, to his son Edward, not of age; to his brother Harry Perkins; to his brother Thomas Perkins's daughter; to Joan Stormant, his servant; to Richard Bassett; to "my mother"; to Isaac Perkins son of his brother Thomas; to his brother Lewis [Luke] Perkins. Overseers; his brothers Thomas Perkins and Edward Shaw. The inventory amounted to £154: 14: 0.†

Elizabeth Perkins of Hillmorton, late wife of John Perkins, husbandman, made her will on June 29, 1603, and it was proved on Aug. 13, 1603, by Edward Shaw "the lawful uncle of Edward Perkins, the executor." She mentions her brother Edward Shaw, her mother Shawe, her brothers Henry and Thomas Shawe, her sisters Elnor Shawe, Mary Masters and Agnes Shawe, her goddaughter Elizabeth Shawe, her brother Henry Perkins and his three daughters, her sister Elizabeth Perkins, her servant Joan Sturman, her brother Isaac Perkins and his three daughters, her brother Thomas Perkins and his two daughters. Executor: her son Edward Perkins. Overseers: her brothers Edward Shawe and Henry Perkins.‡

On Nov. 24, 1603, Thomas Perkins was appointed administrator *c.t.a.* of the estate of John Perkins, late of Hillmorton, and tuition was provided for Edward Perkins, the son, a minor.§

* *Ibid.*
† *Ibid.*, Act Book 4. p. 44.
‡ *Ibid.*, Act Book 7. p. 103.
§ The Hillmorton parish register begins in 1564.

* Lichfield Registry.
† *Ibid.*
‡ *Ibid.*
§ *Ibid.*, Act Book 10. p. 124.

Children, baptized in Hillmorton:

1. *Thomas,* bapt. May 19, 1590; buried May 26, 1590.
2. *Edward,* bapt. Aug. 19, 1598; m. Oct. 6, 1616, Mary Watkin, her sister Marjorie and Henry Shawe being married the same day. The will of Edward Perkins the elder, of Hillmorton, was made June 12, 1657, and proved Dec. 1, 1658. His legatees were his wife Mary, his sons John and Edward (executor), and his daughters Mary, Susanna and Elizabeth. Overseer "cozon Thomas Perkins gent."*

iii. William; m. Elizabeth ———; he may be the William Perkins who was buried in Hillmorton on April 1, 1590, instead of his uncle William. Letters of administration on the estate of William Perkins of Hillmorton were granted to his widow Elizabeth on April 10, 1590. The inventory, in a total of £159, contains "wares at Rugby" where he seems to have been in business as a mercer.†

Children, baptized in Hillmorton:

1. *Margaret,* bapt. Oct. 30, 1586.
2. *John,* bapt. Nov. 4, 1587.

iv. Thomas; m. Mary Bate on Oct. 16, 1586; buried Dec. 7, 1629. In his will dated Dec. 1, 1629, proved June 17, 1630, he is called Thomas Perkins, senior, of Hillmorton, yeoman. He left to his eldest son, Isaac, his messuage and lands in Hillmorton and an inn there called The Bell, in the tenure of Henry Watts. To his wife Mary. To his second son Francis, but he must not take to wife Sara Tant of Hillmorton. To his third son, Edward. To his daughters Mary and Alice. To his cousins Thomas and John Perkins. To his brothers Luke and Isaac Perkins. Executors: his wife and his son Isaac. Witnesses: Thomas Perkins, Isaac Perkins.‡

Children, baptized in Hillmorton:

1. *Elizabeth,* bapt. Aug. 11, 1589; living in 1603.
2. *Agnes,* bapt. Feb. 13, 1591/2; buried July 14, 1619.
3. *Thomas,* bapt. June 7, 1594; buried May 19, 1597.
4. *Isaac,* bapt. March 18, 1597/8; living in 1629.
5. *William,* bapt. Dec. 19, 1600; buried March 15, 1619/20.
6. *Francis,* bapt. April 15, 1604; living in 1629.
7. *Edward,* bapt. April 5, 1607; living in 1629; possibly the Edward who married Alice Harding Sept. 14, 1637.
8. *Mary,* bapt. Nov. 18, 1610; living in 1629.
9. *Alice,* bapt. June 8, 1613; living in 1629.

v. Edward; m. Sara Smyth on July 22, 1605; buried at Hillmorton on August 18, 1619, intestate. Administration was granted to the widow Sarah Perkins of Hillmorton on Oct. 8, 1619, Richard Smith of Hillmorton, yeoman, being her bondsman. Tuition was provided for his children Judith, Francis, Alice, Edward and Isaac.§

* Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 643 Woolton.
† Lichfield Registry, Act Book 8, p. 29.
‡ *Ibid.*
§ *Ibid.*, Act Book 13, p. 26.

Children, baptized in Hillmorton:

1. *Elizabeth* (twin), bapt. July 6, 1606; buried July 22, 1606.
2. *Alice* (twin), bapt. July 6, 1606; d. young.
3. *Judith,* bapt. June 12, 1608; living in 1619.
4. *Francis,* bapt. Oct. 14, 1610; living in 1619, called *son* at baptism, but my *sister* in brother Edward's will.
5. *Alice,* bapt. Sept. 26, 1613; living in 1619.
6. *Edward,* bapt. Jan. 14, 1615/6; m. Sarah ———; d. before June 5, 1643, when the inventory of his estate was taken. His will, made May 31, 1643, was proved May 30, 1648. He left his house and land in Hillmorton to his wife Sarah until September 29 next, but, if she then be with child, to the child. Legacies to his sister Alice Perkins, his sister Judith, his sister Francess, his brother Francis Sarge. Executrix: wife Sarah. Overseers: Mr. Thomas Perkins, brother Wiiliam Bromwich.*
7. *Isaac,* bapt. May 8, 1618; living in 1619.

vi. Francis, bapt. April 20, 1565; not living in 1588.

vii. Luke, bapt. Sept. 20, 1568. There seems to be no record means of deciding whether the Luke Perkins who was buried June 4, 1638, testate, was this Luke, son of Thomas, who would have been 70 years old, or Luke, son of Henry, the first Luke's nephew, who would have been 38 years old. Luke Perkins of Hillmorton, yeoman, signed this document on June 1 and it was proved June 28. He named his wife Margaret residuary legatee and executrix, and there are legacies to the poor and to his servants. Apparently he had no children. "My cozen Thomas Perkins" was overseer, and the inventory was taken by Thomas, John and Edward Perkins, all yeomen of Hillmorton.

viii. Isaac, bapt. Dec. 20, 1571; m. (1) about 1596 Alice ——— who was buried June 17, 1603; m. (2) an unknown wife; no burial record.

Children, baptized in Hillmorton:

1. *Sara,* bapt. Aug. 25, 1594.
2. *Marie,* bapt. Nov. 17, 1598; d. young.
3. *Elizabeth,* bapt. (Aug. 23?), 1600.
4. *Thomas,* bapt. March 21, 1601/2.
5. *Jacob,* bapt. March 23, 1605/6.
6. *Abigail,* bapt. Nov. 8, 1607.
7. *Isaac,* bapt. Jan. 26, 1611/2.
8. *Hanna,* bapt. Oct. 9, 1614.
9. *Lydia,* bapt. Jan. 1, 1617/8.
10. *Mary,* bapt. Sept. 16, 1621.

4. Henry[4] Perkins (*Thomas*[3], *? Henry*[2], *Thomas*[1]), was probably born in Hillmorton about 1555. He married at Hillmorton on November 29, 1579, Elizabeth Sawbridge. He was buried there on March 11, 1608/9. His wife's burial is not recorded.

Letters of administration were granted on April 5, 1609, to

* *Ibid.*

his son Thomas, and a bond was given for the tuition of Margaret, Edward, Anne [Agnes], Sarah, Francis, William, Lucy [Luke], Elizabeth and James [Jacob], "the other children." Thus the son John, of age and married, is not mentioned. The inventory, dated March 22, 1608 [1609], was taken by Rowland Wilcox, gent., Thos. Perkins, John Sawbridge, Thos. Compton and William Burnam, yeomen. It was in the sum of £336: 8: 8.*

The Sawbridge family originated in the hamlet of Sawbridge in the parish of Wolfhamcote, co. Warwick, which is about six miles from Hillmorton. Several Sawbridge wills exist but they throw scant light on Elizabeth Sawbridge's parentage. The will of Richard Sawbridge of Sawbridge, made in 1558 and proved in 1559, mentions his wife Elizabeth, his son Richard and his daughter Joan. Thomas Sawbridge of Hillmorton left a will, undated but apparently proved in 1586, which leaves his estate to his son William, William's children Thomas, Elizabeth, Helena, Lettice and John (the executor) and his godchildren and the poor of Hillmorton. Thomas' son William Sawbridge of Hillmorton made his will on November 3 and it was proved on November 30, 1593. There are legacies to his son Thomas, his daughter Lettice, his son John, his son-in-law Thomas Twigger and his daughter Ellen, and John is named executor. The fourth will is that of George Sawbridge of Hillmorton who was doubtless the brother of Elizabeth Perkins. It was made March 13, 1636, and proved October 21, 1637. The legatees are his wife Agnes, his mother Elizabeth, his sons William (executor), John, George, Thomas and Isaac, his daughters Agnes and Marie. His brothers Richard Turville and Edward Bassett are mentioned, and, with Turville, "cozen [nephew] Thomas Perkins" is named an overseer.†

Children of Henry Perkins, baptized in Hillmorton:

i. ALICE, bapt. March 17, 1580/1.

ii. THOMAS, bapt. July 24, 1582; m. Elizabeth ———, possibly his second wife; d. in 1658. The will of Thomas Perkins of Hillmorton, gentleman, was made Nov. 12, 1655, and proved Feb. 10, 1658(9). He left to his wife Elizabeth £10 and a joined bed in the chamber over the old parlor. To his son Francis, £10, and to Francis' son Francis, 30s. To his daughter Anne Hanslope, £5, and to all her sons and daughters 30s. each at age of 21. To his daughter Marie Bromich, £5, and to her sons and daughters 30s. each at age of 21. To the sons and daughters of his son Henry, such portions as his executors shall think fit to raise for them. Carts, plows, etc. to his grandson Thomas, heir of his son Henry, deceased, provided he help the executors to bring up his brothers and sisters. To the poor of Hillmorton, 20s. Residue to his sons Francis Perkins and Nicholas Hanslope, the executors. Overseer: Thomas Marriott, gentleman. Codicil, Oct. 1658: Thomas Perkins gave the £5 given to his daughter Anne Hanslope, who had died, to her children.*

Children:

1. *Anne*, bapt. Sept. 25, 1614; m. Nicholas Hanslope.
2. *Elizabeth*, bapt. March 9, 1616/7; buried March 28, 1622.
3. *Henry*, bapt. Dec. 5, 1619; d., leaving children, before Nov., 1655.
4. *Mary*, bapt. March 28, 1622; m. ——— Bromwich.
5. *Francis*, bapt. (Nov.?) 7, 1624; living in 1655.

5. iii. JOHN, bapt. Dec. 23, 1583.

iv. FRANCIS, bapt. Nov. 1, 1585; buried Dec. 3, 1585.

v. FRANCIS, bapt. Sept. 18, 1586; buried Jan. 7, 1586/7.

vi. MARGARET, bapt. Nov. 9, 1588; living in 1608/9.

vii. EDWARD, bapt. Dec. 12, 1590; living in 1608/9.

viii. AGNES, bapt. Oct. 16, 1592; possibly the Agnes who m. Edmund Collyson June 29, 1618.

ix. SARA, bapt. Aug. 25, 1594; possibly m. Humphrey Edmunds April 4, 1624.

x. FRANCIS, bapt. Feb. 8, 1596/7; living in 1608/9.

xi. WILLIAM, bapt. Jan. 13, 1598/9; living in 1608/9.

xii. LUKE, bapt. Nov. 27, 1600; living in 1608/9.

xiii. ELIZABETH, bapt. Nov. 28, 1602; buried Dec. 25, 1602.

xiv. ELIZABETH, bapt. Oct. 4, 1604; living in 1608/9.

xv. JACOB, bapt. July 26, 1607; living in 1608/9.

5. JOHN[5] PERKINS (*Henry*[4], *Thomas*[3], *? Henry*[2], *Thomas*[1]) was baptized at Hillmorton, co. Warwick, December 23, 1583. He married there on October 9, 1608, Judith Gater, who survived him when he died in Ipswich, Massachusetts, between March 28 and September 26, 1654.

Judith Gater, daughter of Michael Gater, was baptized in Hillmorton on March 19, 1588/9. Michael Gater had married Isabel Baylie in Hillmorton on November 13, 1576, and Ann Gater who married Thomas Wright on July 29, 1600, was probably an older sister of Judith.

Hillmorton is about two miles from Rugby, near that point on the map where the three counties of Warwick, Northampton and Leicester come together. Some six miles to the north lies the parish of Cotesbach, co. Leicester, from where two sons of the parson, Henry Dillingham, emigrated to New England, their father probably having Puritan leanings, while at Claybrooke, in the same neighborhood, preached John Higginson who left England in 1629 and became the first minister of Salem's con-

* *Ibid.*, Act Book 11, p. 73.

† Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 131 Goare.

* *Ibid.*, 53 Pell.

gregation. Possibly John Perkins came under the influence of one or the other of these nonconformist parsons.

With five of their children John and Judith Perkins sailed from Bristol on December 1, 1630, on the *Lyon*, William Pierce, master, one of their fellow passengers being the famous Roger Williams. After a stormy voyage of sixty-seven days, during which one seaman was lost, the *Lyon* made land at Nantasket on February 5, 1630/1, and entered Boston harbor the next day, the provisions with which the ship was loaded saving the colony from rapidly approaching famine.

The Perkins family remained in Boston for over two years before joining the settlers who under the leadership of the younger John Winthrop went up the coast in 1633 to found a town at Agawam, soon to be named Ipswich. Having joined the Boston church, John was sworn Freeman on May 18, 1631, and in 1632 he served on a committee to fix a boundary between Roxbury and Dorchester. John Perkins was a man of forty-nine in 1632 and his son John was twenty-two, so it is probable that young John was the man named in the order of the General Court on April 3, 1632: "It was ordered that no person whatsoever shall shoot at fowl upon Pullen Point or Noodle's Island but that said places shall be reserved for John Perkins to take fowl with nets."*

In Ipswich Perkins had various land grants. In 1634 he was given 40 acres and, in 1635, 3 acres of upland and 10 acres of meadow lying toward the head of Chebacco creek, also a little island of about 50 acres called More's point on the south side of the town river. Also in 1635 he had 10 acres "on part whereof he hath built a house" and 6 acres of meadow and 6 acres of upland adjoining the house lot. In 1636 he was granted 40 acres at Chebacco which he sold to Thomas Howlett in 1637, and in 1639 planting ground of 6 acres on the south side of the river.

Besides holding town offices he was the Ipswich Representative in the General Court of Massachusetts Bay in 1636 and a grand juryman in 1641, 1648 and 1652. John Perkins, Sr., being "above 60 years of age" was freed from training in March, 1649/50.

John Perkins the elder made his will March 28, 1654, and it was proved on the following September 27. He divided his cattle, horses and sheep between his son John, John's two sons John and Abraham, his son Thomas and Thomas' son John, his daughter Elizabeth Sargent and her children, his daughter Mary Bradbury and her children, his daughter Lydia Bennett and her children and his grandson Thomas Bradbury. To his son Jacob, his dwelling-house, the outhousing and all his lands and the improvements thereon, according to a former covenant, but after the death of his wife and not before. Residue to his dear wife Judith Perkins, the sole executrix. Witnesses: William Bartholomew, Thomas Harris. The inventory, mostly of real estate, was in the sum of £250: 5: 0.*

* *Records of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay*, I: 103.

In 1637 there was an Isaac Perkins in Ipswich where he owned "land lying above the street called Brook street, six acres." He was dead before June 15, 1639, when his widow Alice Perkins sold the lot to Joseph Morse. It is tempting to believe that he was also of the Hillmorton stock. Our John Perkins did not have a brother Isaac, but he had an uncle Isaac only eleven years older than he, while other Isaacs were baptized in Hillmorton in 1597/8 and 1611/2. If Isaac Perkins of Ipswich was a man of middle age, which we have no means of knowing, he and Alice may have been the parents of Abraham and Isaac Perkins who turned up in Hampton, not far down the coast, where Abraham took the Freeman's Oath in 1640 and Isaac in 1642. These men are presumed to have been brothers. Abraham named a son Luke, not a common name, and our John Perkins of Hillmorton and Ipswich had an uncle Luke, a brother Luke, and a grandson Luke.

Children of John Perkins, all but the last baptized in Hillmorton:

i. JOHN, bapt. Sept. 14, 1609; m. Elizabeth ——— who d. Sept. 27, 1684; he d. in Ipswich Dec. 14, 1686. He took the Freeman's Oath on May 19, 1633. It was probably he, not his father, who was ordered to carry up 40 turfs toward the building of the fort on Corn Hill or Fort Hill in Boston, as a punishment for drunkenness, on Oct. 1, 1633. His adventure with a force of Tarratine Indians in forty canoes, who were about to attack Agawam when there were only between twenty and thirty men, young and old, living in the settlement, is told in the family genealogy. In Dec., 1643, 3s. were due him, at 12d. a day, for service against Indians. He kept the first ordinary or inn in Ipswich, his license being renewed from year to year. In 1672 a new room in the house was called "the Kings arms" and the young bloods of the town raised a riot there in the evening after training day.† There are on record the usual land grants beginning in 1634. He was Quartermaster of the Ipswich company. At least 8 sons and 1 daughter.

ii. ELIZABETH, bapt. March 25, 1611; m. William Sargent. They moved to Newbury, to Hampton, to Salisbury and finally to Amesbury where she died before Sept. 18, 1670, when he married widow

* *Probate Records of Essex County*, I: 190-191.
† *Records and Files*, V: 31-34.

Joanna (Pindor) Rowell. He died about 1674 and the widow Joanna married Richard Currier on Oct. 26, 1676.

iii. MARY, bapt. Sept. 3, 1615; m. about 1636 Capt. Thomas Bradbury of Salisbury, a prominent man in his town and county, serving as town clerk, schoolmaster, J.P. and Representative in the General Court 1651-1656. She was tried for witchcraft and convicted in 1692 but her execution was delayed and she was released when the delusion waned. Her husband and her clergyman testified for her, and 117 of her neighbors courageously signed a petition praising her character. Captain Bradbury died March 16, 1694/5, and she survived until Dec. 20, 1700.

iv. ANNE, bapt. Sept. 5, 1617; died young.

6. v. THOMAS, bapt. April 28, 1622.

vi. JACOB, bapt. July 12, 1624; m. (1) Elizabeth (said to be daughter of Matthew Whipple) who d. Feb. 12, 1685/6; m. (2) widow Damaris Robinson; d. Jan. 27, 1699/1700. He was sworn Freeman in 1660, was a sergeant in the Ipswich train-band, and a very frequent choice as juryman. Early in an August afternoon in 1668 Mehitable Brabrook, the sixteen-year-old servant of Elizabeth Perkins, her master and mistress having gone to the town, was alone in the house and was smoking a pipe. Going outside she climbed to the top of the oven which projected from the back of the house, "to looke if there were any hogs in the corn," and knocked out her pipe on the thatch at the eaves. This was the end of the house built by old John Perkins and left by him to his son Jacob. The efforts of the neighbors to save it were futile and it burned to the ground. Mehitable was convicted of extreme carelessness "if not wilfully burning the house," was severely whipped and ordered to pay £40 to her master.* By October a new house was being built. This house was struck by lightning on a Sunday in 1671 "while many people were gathered there to repeat (discuss?) the sermon, when he and many others were struck down." Jacob and the house survived, however. In 1693 he made an agreement with two of his sons for life support. After Jacob's death in 1699 his widow returned to Boston, where she had lived with her first husband Nathaniel Robinson, and survived until 1716.

vii. LYDIA, bapt. June 3, 1632, in Boston; m. Henry Bennett of Ipswich who bought a 200-acre farm from Jonathan Wade in 1654; d. before May 20, 1685, when he m. widow Frances Burr who d. Jan. 12, 1707/8. One of Lydia Bennett's sons, John, was in Capt. Lathrop's Company, "the Flower of Essex," and was slain at Bloody Brook in 1675, about twenty years old.

6. THOMAS[6] PERKINS (*John*[5]) was baptized in Hillmorton on April 28, 1622, and was nearly nine years old when he landed in Boston. He married, presumably in Ipswich, about 1643 Phebe Gould of New Meadows, a settlement, partly in Ipswich and partly in Salem, which was to become the town of Topsfield in 1650. He died in Topsfield on May 7, 1686, his wife Phebe surviving him.

Upon an alarm of an impending Indian attack, which proved false, Ipswich sent a few young men into the field to join others

* *Ibid.*, IV: 56-57.

* Note - NZ - another "witchcraft" relative (sister of our ancestors Jacob & Thomas Perkins + dau of "Sarge" John + Judith (Gates) Perkins) note written Jan 1993.

from neighboring towns, to put up a defense. They were gone only a few days, but in 1643 Thomas was paid 3s. for the service. After their marriage he and his wife settled at New Meadows on a farm of 150 acres given him by her father, Zacheus Gould.

Perkins was a useful citizen of Topsfield and particularly in church affairs. He was made a Freeman in 1664, was a grand juror in 1666 and 1667 and a selectman in 1668, 1676, and 1682. He became deacon in 1677 and was a tythingman that year and in 1678, when he haled Thomas Baker into court for laughing in church! He served on several committees to deal with the men of Rowley Village [Boxford] as to their privileges and responsibilities in the Topsfield church which they attended before organizing a church of their own. In 1680 he was a member of a committee seeking to secure Mr. Danforth as minister, but apparently they were unsuccessful for in 1681 Perkins and the others were ordered to "discourse" with Mr. Capen who came to an agreement with them and was a much loved and respected Topsfield parson for many years.

Thomas and Phebe Perkins were among the guests at a Sunday dinner at the house of an earlier parson, Mr. Gilbert, in 1670. Mr. Gilbert was a sick man, as good old Joanna Towne charitably realized (See page 112), but others believed him to have drunk too much wine. The matter was aired in court and Phebe Perkins testified as follows: "there was a cup with wine in it which was offered to Mr. Gilbert. He refused to take it at first, but afterward put the cup to his mouth" but she did not know whether he drank or not. Three more had the cup beside himself and after he had dined he drank what was left in the cup. Immediately after dinner he sang a psalm and in reading it she thought his voice was lower than it used to be. As evidence of drunkenness this would seem to be negligible.

Phebe Perkins' sister-in-law, Sarah Gould, wife of Capt. John Gould, went farther, however. She testified that she and Phebe went into another room after dinner, where Phebe said "I wonder my Husban would ask him to drinke for I think hee had noe need of it. The first time hee toke the Cope I saw him drinke a good draft." In spite of his wife's testimony that Mr. Gilbert was a sick man, the court admonished him.*

Sarah Gould continued to gossip and Mr. Gilbert eventually sued her for slander. In court he asked the judges to "compare

* *Ibid.*, IV: 246.

her [Sarah's] Oath with the Oath of Goodie Perkins, taken att the same tym, and if they do not clash one against another I am much mistaken." We heartily agree.*

Thomas Perkins's will was made December 11, 1685, and proved September 10, 1686. He directed that his wife live in his house with his two sons Thomas and Timothy, "if they can possibly agree, for I do think it will be best for them to carry on together." If not, and the two sons part, Thomas, Timothy and his son Elisha are to pay their mother £2 each per annum. To his wife, a bed and all the furniture thereto belonging, and half of the household stuff. To his sons Thomas, Elisha and Timothy and their heirs male, "all the farm I do live on." To son Zacheus, four acres of meadow out of the farm for his life, and, if he has a son or sons, the remainder to them. To his grandchild Thomas Perkins, son of his son John, the thirty-acre lot over the river or £30 "if he liveth till he marryeth or be of age." To his son Zacheus, the farm which he lives upon "which I had of my father Gould" provided he pay £60 to the executors, and if he will not pay he shall have but half of it. To his daughters' children, £40 to be divided equally. To his son Joseph Towne, sixteen acres of land at the northwest end of the long hill and £16. To his daughter Judith, £40, a bed and its furniture and a cow. After his mother's death his son Thomas shall have all the housing. If Thomas and Timothy cannot agree, Thomas shall pay to Timothy "3 parts out of 4 toward the building of Timothy an house of the same bigness of his brother Elisha's house." He makes gifts of cattle, horses, sheep and swine to his sons Timothy and Elisha, his wife, and Elisha's son Thomas. When Thomas and Timothy part, one-quarter of the income of the orchard shall go to Elisha. The farm implements to Thomas and Timothy, who are named executors. Witnesses: Samuel Howlett, Daniel Reddington.

Children:

i. JOHN, b. about 1644; m. Nov. 28, 1666, Deborah Browning; d. May 19, 1668, administration being granted to his widow in June. Son *Thomas,* a legatee of his grandfather Perkins in 1685, was born Nov. 4, 1667.

ii. PHEBE; m. about 1665 Joseph Towne.

iii. ZACHEUS; m. Rebecca ——— about 1704; d. Dec. 1, 1732.

Zacheus was the cause of what must have been great sorrow to his parents. To his credit must be placed the fact that he was a soldier under Capt. Joseph Gardiner of Salem in King Philip's war and took part in the Great Swamp Fight when the fortified village of the Narragansetts was destroyed, in 1676.

* *Ibid.,* VII: 368.

In 1680 he was in serious trouble indeed. According to his own confession, on an election day at Wenham he fell in with a Frenchman, one Nicholas Jennings (surely a much distorted version of a French name) whom he had known at Narragansett. Jennings invited him to go to Salem to drink and they rode over in the evening and tied their horses to a tree in an orchard. Jennings told Zacheus to remain there to look after the animals and went away, returning after two hours when they went to the shop of Mr. Thomas Maule. The door was open and Jennings went in and brought out a bundle of goods which he gave to Zacheus, then going in again he came out with a sack of goods which he laid on his horse. "Soon they parted as they heard the watch coming," Zacheus riding to Topsfield and Jennings to Marblehead.

This was not Zacheus's only offense. He had stolen a silver cup from Mr. Joseph Whiting, a gold ring from Goodman Robison of Topsfield, and goods and money from Mr. Batten. Found guilty at his trial on May 4, 1680, he was sentenced to be branded on the forehead with the letter B and publicly whipped, which was carried out on May 6 "immediately after lecture." He was to pay Mr. Maule £250 and Mr. Batten £24, which presumably his father had to assume.*

iv. MARTHA; m. Dec. 17, 1669, John Lamson of Ipswich; living in 1719 when her sister Mary made her will.

v. MARY; m. Oct. 27, 1671, William Howlett of Ipswich whom she survived; d. about 1728, *s.p.* (See page 56.)

7. vi. ELISHA.

vii. THOMAS; m. June 1, 1683, Sarah Wallis; d. in 1722, his wife surviving. He was a weaver as well as a farmer in Topsfield. A member of the witchcraft jury in Salem in 1692, he and the other jurymen made a declaration of repentance for their part in the trials, in 1696. He made his will on July 5, 1720, and it was proved May 10, 1722. He left property to his wife Sarah and his three sons Thomas, Robert and Samuel. To his four daughters Sarah, Phebe, Hannah and Martha, £40 apiece, of which Phebe had already had £34, and Hannah and Martha "the greater part."†

The daughter Phebe Perkins had married Thomas Goodale on Nov. 10, 1713. She died before her father and she was appointed administratrix on Nov. 7, 1720, but when she accounted on March 15, 1729/30, she was Phebe Goodale *alias* How, having married Joseph How of Topsfield on April 2, 1729.‡

viii. JUDITH, b. Jan. 28, 1658(9); d. unmarried before 1719.

8. ix. TIMOTHY, b. June 6, 1661.

7. ELISHA[7] PERKINS (*Thomas*[6], *John*[5]) was born in Topsfield about 1654. His first wife whom he married on February 23, 1680, was Katherine Towne who died on July 2, 1714. He married, secondly, on April 4, 1715, Elizabeth Towne, who was born Elizabeth Knight and was the widow of Samuel Towne, his first wife's uncle. He died on February 18, 1741, and his widow survived until May 17, 1752.

He served Topsfield in the usual minor offices, was a selectman

* *Records and Files,* VII: 364.

† Essex Probate, 313: 454-456.

‡ *Ibid.,* 313: 208; 316: 183.

in 1710, 1712, 1716 and 1724, and was a member of the Essex grand jury in 1708, 1709, 1715, 1718, 1721 and 1725.

He was a farmer and lived on a portion of his father's large holdings. He died intestate and there is no record of administration. To his sons, however, he made gifts of land. In 1720 he deeded to his son John 2 acres of land and an island, presumably in the Ipswich river, containing 2 acres of upland and meadow. In 1739 he conveyed to his three sons John, Jacob and Joseph, the lands which he had bought from Jacob, William and Samuel Towne in 1702/3. On May 3, 1742, John Perkins, house carpenter, and Jacob Perkins, husbandman, quitclaimed to Joseph Perkins one third of the farm possessed by their father Elisha Perkins, deceased, mentioning "our grandfather Thomas Perkins."* Presumably Thomas Perkins, the eldest son, had received his share when he removed to Maine.

Children, born in Topsfield:

i. THOMAS, b. Oct. 15, 1681; of "Caporpus" when he m. on Nov. 26, 1719, Mary Wildes who d. in Arundel in Maine on April 1, 1742; he died there in 1761. As their first two children were born in Topsfield it seems that he did not settle permanently in Arundel until about 1723. On May 16, 1718, Joseph Leach of Manchester, for £110, sold to Thomas Perkins of Cape Porpoise 200 acres in Cape Porpoise "formerly John Barrett's . . . commonly called Barrett's place," and on June 24, 1719, Perkins and Andrew Brown bought for £10 from John Watson, Jabez Dorman and James Tyler 50 acres on Montague's Neck at Cape Porpoise.† Cape Porpoise became Arundel and is now Kennebunkport. About a year after Thomas Perkins bought his Arundel lands another Thomas Perkins from Greenland, N. H., settled there. Both men were very prominent in the community and it is difficult to assign their activities. Our man is said to have served as town clerk and clerk of the proprietors and was a deputy to the General Court, after which he was "Esquire," having previously been Ensign and Captain.

ii. ELISHA, b. May 27, 1683; d. Dec. 24, 1704.

iii. JOHN, b. Aug. 11, 1685; m. Sept. 10, 1713, Mary Esty; d. June 22, 1750, in Topsfield. She was probably the widow Mary Perkins, "a very aged pr'son" who d. Nov. 18, 1781.

iv. KATHERINE, b. Feb. 3, 1688; d., unmarried, on July 2, 1714.

v. PHEBE, b. Aug. 10, 1690; m. Capt. John Wildes. (*See Wildes.*)

vi. JACOB, bapt. Nov. 13, 1692; m. Dec. 5, 1721, Hannah Borman; d. Nov. 18, 1758, in Topsfield, "an aged man" (66!). His widow m. Aug. 23, 1763, John Batchelder.

vii. RUTH, b. May 10, 1695; no further record.

viii. MARY, b. March 30, 1699; probably m. John Swain of Reading at Ipswich, recorded in Topsfield, Dec. 1, 1720.

ix. JOSEPH, b. May 10, 1702; m. Mercy Robinson at Salem on Nov. 30, 1727. She was dismissed from Topsfield church to Methuen on May 27, 1753.

* Essex Deeds, 39: 185; 78: 210; 95: 239.
† York Deeds, IX: 41, 209.

8. TIMOTHY[7] PERKINS (*Thomas*[6], *John*[5]) was born in Topsfield on June 6, 1661. He married about 1688, Hannah —— who died November 14, 1690. She had been admitted to the church on June 1 of that year. He married secondly, about 1691, Abigail ——, who died before him. Timothy died on August 7, 1738, in Topsfield.

Perkins held only minor offices in Topsfield, as fence viewer in 1686/7, pound keeper in 1694/5, surveyor of highways in 1689/90, 1700/1, 1701/2 and 1715/6, and tythingman in 1708/9 and 1718/9. He was called Timothy *junior*, his senior being Timothy, born in 1658, son of the erstwhile parson, Mr. William Perkins, who was of no relation to our family. He was also a deacon in the Topsfield church and when common lands were divided in 1720 he was listed as "decon Timothy Perkins so called."

Timothy Perkins left no will and there is no record of the administration of his property. His children settled his estate by an interchange of deeds. On September 18, 1738, Timothy Perkins, jun., husbandman, Abigail Dwinell, Esther Perkins and Elizabeth Perkins, singlewoman, all of Topsfield, for £72: 11: 0, conveyed to Jonathan Perkins, mason, and John Perkins, jun., husbandman, all rights in the estate of their father, Mr. Timothy Perkins, Jonathan and John having paid the debts and funeral expenses, and also "in consideration of our having the liberty of improving and living in the Dwelling house where our said father last dwelt."* On the same day Timothy and Jonathan quitclaimed to John their rights in many specified pieces of their father's land (common rights excepted), and on November 9, 1738, Timothy and John executed a similar quitclaim to Jonathan.†

Children, by first wife:

i. TIMOTHY, bapt. July 6, 1690; m. Ruth Dorman (born in 1686) whose father, Ephraim Dorman, in his will made in July, 1720, stated that she had married Timothy Perkins and was then dead, leaving a daughter Ruth to whom he left £10. The will of Timothy Perkins, Jr., of Topsfield, made Sept. 4, 1741, was proved May 11, 1752. He left his estate to his cousins [nephews] Stephen and Timothy Perkins, sons of his brother John, and named his friend Jacob Averill executor.‡

* Essex Deeds, 77: 165.
† *Ibid.*, 77: 164, 202.
‡ Essex Probate, 303: 442.

Children, baptized in Topsfield:

1. *Ruth,* bapt. Aug. 29, 1714; living in 1720 but d. before 1741.
2. *Jonathan,* bapt. Aug. 28, 1715; d. young.
3. *Timothy,* bapt. Sept. —, 1717; d. young.

ii. HANNAH, bapt. July 6, 1690; died young.

By second wife:

9. iii. JONATHAN, bapt. Jan. 29, 1692/3.
iv. ABIGAIL, b. June 7, 1695; m. Dec. 11, 1716, Thomas Dwinell.
v. HANNAH, b. Jan. 21, 1697/8; died before 1738.
vi. JOHN, b. June 2, 1700; m. (1) Dorothy Wildes before April 2, 1724/5, when she was named in the will of her father Ephraim Wildes; m. (2) June 18, 1736, widow Martha (Perkins) Robinson who d. Aug. 16, 1736; m. (3) Feb. 14, 1737/8, Jemima Averill, who d. March 2, 1749; he d. Feb. 7, 1780, "in the 80th year of his age." His son by his first wife, Capt. Stephen Perkins, commanded a company in the Revolutionary army and was a Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts.
vii. ESTHER, b. July 22, 1703; "died in an instant by falling into a well" Oct. 3, 1748.
viii. ELIZABETH, bapt. Jan. 7, 1709/10; d. unmarried Dec. 3, 1809, "aged 99 years, 10 months, 15 days."

9. JONATHAN[3] PERKINS (*Timothy*[2], *Thomas*[2], *John*[1]) was baptized in Topsfield on January 29, 1692/3. He married Sarah Wildes on January 21, 1718/9. She was living on April 16, 1719, when Mary (Perkins) Howlett made her will, in which she is called "my cousin Sarah Wildes now Perkins," but died before Mrs. Howlett on January 21, 1719/20, aged 20 years, 9 months and 24 days. Jonathan married secondly, on December 11, 1722, Elizabeth Porter of Salem, who survived him and died in Topsfield on November 26, 1772, "an aged woman." Perkins was a mason by trade, and his death on June 25, 1749, was caused by his "falling from a chimney." He was elected Topsfield's constable in 1733/4, tythingman in 1732/3, and held other minor offices.

Jonathan Perkins seems to have lived on his father's farm, after the division of 1738. On November 15, 1738, he and his brother John conveyed to Dr. Richard Dexter of Topsfield between ten and eleven acres south of the Ipswich river, their wives Elizabeth and Jemima releasing dower, and on the following day Jonathan, mason, and his wife Elizabeth deeded to the doctor one acre of woodland.* Jonathan had bought three and a half acres in Topsfield from Daniel Reddington on July 11, 1738.†

Administration on the estate of Jonathan Perkins, late of

* *Ibid.*, 77: 218, 219.
† *Ibid.*, 77: 218.

Topsfield, intestate, was granted to his widow Elizabeth on July 17, 1749.* The inventory totalled £662, of which £530 was in real estate. From Elizabeth's account we learn that she had spent 26s. 5d. on "a suit of mourning." The court appointed a committee to divide the real estate and careful provision was made for the widow's dower. The remaining two-thirds of the land was found not to admit of division among the children, and it was decided to settle it on the eldest surviving son, David Perkins, he to pay to each of his brothers and sisters, Jonathan, Hannah, Judith, Abigail, Dudley, Philemon and Sarah, £21: 0: 8 and 3 farthings, the document being dated October 28, 1751, and allowed by the court on February 24, 1752.† It was not until after the death of their mother in 1772 that a final settlement was made by deed.

Children, by second wife:

i. JONATHAN, b. Jan. 1, 1723/4; d. May 31, 1729.
ii. DAVID, b. Dec. 26, 1725; m. March 10, 1752, Mercy Fiske of Wenham; d. April 21, 1803, aged 77, "a paralytic"; she d. Oct. 19, 1777. His sisters Hannah Wildes and Judith Perkins conveyed their interest in their father's estate to him on April 30, 1751.‡
iii. HANNAH, b. Jan. 16, 1727/8; m. Feb. 5, 1750/1, Amos Wildes of Topsfield. Her conveyance to her brother David is noted above. (*See Wildes.*)
iv. JONATHAN, b. March 3, 1730; in 1773 his wife was named Mary, probably Mary Trask who married Jonathan Perkins of Wenham in Beverly on Feb. 7, 1754. On March 9, 1750(1), Jonathan Perkins of Topsfield, husbandman, for £28, released to David Perkins of Topsfield, cordwainer, 2/3 of 1/9 of the estate of their father, Jonathan Perkins, late of Topsfield.§ Jonathan Perkins of Beverly, cordwainer, Philemon Perkins of Ipswich, tailor, Joseph Cummings, Jr., of Ipswich, yeoman, and wife Judith, and Samuel Fisk of Topsfield, yeoman, and wife Sarah for £64, conveyed to David Perkins their shares in their father's estate, including the house, barn and barnyard set off to their mother Elizabeth Perkins, deceased, and their interest in an orchard on the land of John and Stephen Perkins, on Feb. 3, 1773. Mary Perkins and Abigail Perkins released dower.‖ No death records of Jonathan and Mary Perkins are in Beverly.
v. JUDITH, b. (Judah in record) June 21, 1732; m. March 21, 1758, Joseph Cummings, Jr., of Ipswich. Her conveyances are entered above.
vi. ABIGAIL, b. Dec. 20, 1734; m. July 14, 1752, Joseph Edwards, Jr., who "died in ye war" in 1757. No conveyance to her brother David is found.
vii. DUDLEY, b. Sept. 8, 1737; "died in ye war" in 1758.
viii. PHILEMON, b. June 8, 1740; m. Dec. 14, 1769, Abigail Foster. Caleb

* Essex Probate, 328: 591.
† *Ibid.*, 330: 145, 320.
‡ Essex Deeds, 107: 33, 34.
§ *Ibid.*, 108: 32.
‖ *Ibid.*, 145: 85.

GOULD

In the parish of Bovingdon, co. Hertford, a family named Gould has lived since the thirteenth century, if not earlier, and to it Zacheus Gould of Topsfield in Massachusetts and several other seventeenth-century emigrants, closely related to him, belonged. The family genealogy, quoting from the county history, says that, when in 1235 a charter granted to the vicar of Hemel Hempstead, an adjoining parish, the appointment of a curate to the church of St. Laurence in Bovingdon, Thomas Gould was one of the signatories.*

An unusual and very valuable clue to the English home of these New England Goulds was provided by an account book, kept by John Gould (1662-1724) of Topsfield, who wrote therein "Grandfather Gould lived at a place called Hunts Green near Potter Row, belonging to Great [Missenden]." Great Missenden lies about eight miles to the west of Bovingdon, but, the general neighborhood being established, the full identification followed.

An expert in Anglo-American genealogical problems,† searching the appropriate probate registry, found some ten wills of this Gould family of prosperous yeomen and constructed from them a pedigree which is, in all probability, sound, but the Goulds were prolific and, in my opinion, further research, which I am not prepared to make, might strengthen it.

Because it demonstrates the unusual devotion to their parish church common to almost all of them, the first few items in the will of Thomas Gould, proved in 1520, are here given, in modern spelling. After directing that he be buried in the churchyard of St. Laurence at Bovyngdon, he makes bequests to the high altar, the mother church of Lincoln, the rood light, Our Lady's light, St. Laurence's light, St. Leonard's light, St. Nicholas' light, to the maintaining of the torches, to the gilding of St. Laurence's tabernacle and to a priest to sing for his soul for two years. This Thomas Gould is considered to have been the great-great-great-grandfather of Zacheus Gould, the emigrant.

Because his parentage is possibly the weakest link in the published pedigree this account begins with Richard Gould who lived in the latter half of the sixteenth century.

* *The Family of Zacheus Gould*, Benjamin Apthorp Gould, Lynn, 1895, quoting from *Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*, Sir H. Chauncy, II: 476.

† The late Horatio G. Somerby.

1. RICHARD[1] GOULD, of whom nothing is known except that he was "late of Bovingdon" in 1604 when his son Jeremy was married, had at least three sons, Jeremy, John and Zacheus, and possibly daughters as well.*

Children:

i. JEREMY, b. about 1581; on Nov. 8, 1604, "Jeremie sonne of Richard Gould of Bovingdon deceased & Priscilla daughter of Willm Grover of Codmore" were married at Chesham, co. Buckingham. He was assessed in 1623 for property in Halton and Weston Turville, co. Buckingham.

By 1639 he had emigrated to New England and settled at Weymouth where on Oct. 1, 1639, he mortgaged to Joseph Holloway of Sandwich a house, lot and meadow, which he had lately purchased of Holloway, to secure the payment of £20. This is presumably the house in Weymouth which he sold to James Parker of Strawberry Bank who conveyed it to Zacheus Gould of Ipswich on Nov. 26, 1644, and which Zacheus sold to Capt. William Perkins on April 2, 1645.† There is a plausible tradition that after 1639 Jeremy went to England and brought back with him to Weymouth his wife and family. In any event he was here in 1641 when William Coddington of Newport in Rhode Island appointed his "well-beloved friend Mr. Jere. Gould" his attorney in Massachusetts. It was possibly because of his association with Coddington that Gould settled soon afterward in Middletown, Rhode Island. Again, there is a tradition that he returned to England after the death of his wife. Of his children, his son Daniel Gould was an ardent Quaker who was whipped and imprisoned in Boston in 1659.

ii. JOHN, b. about 1585; m. Judith ———; buried at King's Langley, co. Hertford, July 11, 1633. He, yeoman, made his will on June 30 and it was proved July 18, 1633. He left £20 to his eldest son John at the age of twenty-four, and £10 each to his other children, Joseph, Sarah, Hannah, Mary, Zacheus, Nathan, Abel, Lydia and Elizabeth. Residuary legatee and executrix: his wife Judith. Overseers: Thomas Childe, gent., of Abbot's Langley, Ralph King of Watford, John Saye of Hempsted.

Judith Gould of Watford, co. Hertford, widow, made her will May 6, and it was proved Sept. 3, 1650. She left to her son Abel £400 and a little box at the house of her cousin Gase and all that was in it. To her daughters Lydia and Elizabeth, £300 each. To Hannah and Elizabeth, daughters of her daughter Hannah, £40 between them. Her son-in-law George Younge owed her £100 of which her executors should claim only £40. To the own children of her son Nathan in New England, £40. To the children of her daughter Sarah, £60 if her [the testatrix's] son Nathan had not divided the goods her son Zacheus left him when he died equally between him and his sister Sarah, but, if they were equally divided, then this £100 [*sic*] was to be equally divided for the use of their children. If her son Abel should die before coming of age, £300 should be divided between her daughters Lydia and Elizabeth, £50 given to her daughter Hannah, £20 to her daughter Marie, and £30 sent to New England to be equally divided between the own children of her son Nathan and her daughter Sarah.

* The family genealogy names a fourth son, Richard, but gives no evidence whatever for his inclusion.

† Suffolk Deeds, I: 16, 34, 36, 38.

If money that she had lent to the Parliament should be paid, she willed £100 to her son Abel, £40 to her daughter Marie and the rest to her daughters Hannah, Lydia and Elizabeth. To Master Goodwinge, minister of Watford, £5. Residue to her executors: son Abel and daughters Lydia and Elizabeth. Witnesses: Ralph King, Thomas Barrabee.*

Of the three children who came to New England before 1650, Nathan founded a family in Amesbury, the married name of Sarah is not known, and Zacheus had died unmarried. On Sept. 12, 1650, nine days after proving her mother's will, Elizabeth Gould took out administration of her brother Zacheus's estate in London.

2. iii. ZACHEUS.

2. ZACHEUS[2] GOULD (*Richard*[1]) was born, presumably in Bovingdon, about 1589 (aged 72 in 1661).† He married Phebe Deacon of Hemel Hempstead about 1619. She died in Topsfield on September 20, 1663, and he survived until 1668.

The Goulds lived in Hemel Hempstead for several years after their marriage and in the parish church their first three children were baptized 1620-1623. Soon thereafter they moved to Great Missenden, co. Buckingham, where Zacheus Gould was assessed in a subsidy in 1629. An early tradition says that their son John was born on midsummer day, the 10th of June, old style, 1635, and that he was three years old "in his hanging or large-sleeved tunic" when the Goulds sailed for New England. This would place their emigration in the last half of 1638 or the first half of 1639.

Weymouth, not far south of Boston, was Gould's destination after landing in Massachusetts Bay and the first record of him is in the will of Henry Russell of that town, made January 28, 1639/40, in which Zacheus Gould was named an overseer and to which Jeremy Gould was a witness. He must have regarded Weymouth as temporary quarters, however, while he looked about for a promising place for permanent settlement. In the notebook of Thomas Lechford, the Boston notary, there are drafts of two documents, the first drawn between May 26 and June 1, 1640, and the second between December 11 and 19, of the same year, for leases from Mr. John Humphrey to Zacheus Gould "of Lynn." The first covered a messuage and a 300-acre farm called The Plains, "lying within the liberties of Salem," and the second added to The Plains another farm called The Ponds. The negotiations fell through, however, but they serve to locate Gould in Lynn in 1640, in which year the town history says that he owned a mill on Saugus river.

* Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 145 Pembroke.

† The parish registers of Bovingdon before 1674 have been destroyed by fire.

On October 7, 1640, Zacheus Gould, husbandman, in behalf of himself and all other husbandmen in the country, addressed a plea to the Governor and the General Court, asking for an order "for the encouragement of your petitioners who are husbandmen employed about English grain, that they and their servants be exempted from ordinary trainings in seed time, hay time and harvest." The petition was wisely granted. Earlier in 1640, on June 4, Zacheus had witnessed the will of "ould Hugh Churchman" of Lynn, and, from a comparison of the writing of the document and the witness clause, it would appear that he had written the whole. During his Lynn residence he made several appearances in the county court. In 1642 he, Thomas Putnam and James Huberd entered a suit as partners, which is interesting as Gould and Putnam's father were probably brothers-in-law. In 1643 William Taylor, Gould's servant, was ordered severely whipped for theft.

By 1644 Gould had found his permanent home—a farm of 300 acres which had been granted to Capt. Daniel Patrick, who sold it in 1640 to Mr. William Paine, and which lay in the inland part of Ipswich known as Ipswich Farms or Village, later to become New Meadows and finally Topsfield. Its general bounds must have been known, but it was not definitely laid out until 1665 when Gould's son-in-law, John Wild, testified that "about twenty-one years before" William Paine sold land to Zacheus Gould where his house then stood, while on May 23, 1666, it was reported to the General Court that Thomas Howlett and John Gage having been appointed to lay out and measure to Zacheus Gould the 300-acre grant to Captain Patrick, did so about a year since.

Zacheus took immediate steps to encourage settlement in his neighborhood and on May 29, 1644, the General Court decreed: "Upon Zaccheus Gould's petition it is conceived to be for the general good and very convenient that there should be a village about that farm and that the town of Ipswich should further them therein." Four years later, on October 18, 1648, the Court acted on a new petition of which Zacheus was one of the signers. They asked the deputies "that you wold be pleased to bestowe a name upon our Villiage at the new meadowes at Ipswich . . . wee think that hempstead will be a fit name." The request was partially granted but it must have been a sore disappointment to Zacheus that the magistrates, influenced by the Assistant to the Governor, Samuel Symonds, disregarded Hempstead and voted for Topsfield, to commemorate the parish in Essex, England, where Symonds had had an estate. In 1650, "in answer to the request of Zacheus Gould and William Howard of Topsfield, the Court doth grant that Topsfield shall henceforth be a town." Obviously Gould had been the most influential citizen in these steps leading to the final incorporation.*

In 1645 Gould sued Capt. William Perkins for debt, Perkins being the man to whom he had sold the property in Weymouth which had originally belonged to Jeremy Gould who conveyed it to James Parker who in turn conveyed it to Zacheus. Perkins moved to Topsfield, and although probably not ordained, became the town's minister.

Gould took the Oath of Fidelity on September 30, 1651, but, as he remained outside the church all his life, he never became a freeman. Possibly while in Lynn he became interested in the doctrines of the Baptists who were numerous in that town. It is equally possible that he leaned toward the Quakers. In 1659 he was fined £3 for entertaining Quakers and at the same time Daniel Gould of Rhode Island, his nephew, was ordered to be whipped thirty stripes and to depart the Massachusetts jurisdiction. Daniel had probably been his uncle's guest in Topsfield. The fine was remitted in 1660 because of the great loss he had lately sustained by fire.†

On a Sunday afternoon in 1658 Gould's behavior in the meeting house was, it must be admitted, nothing short of scandalous. The parson, William Perkins, and a deacon, Isaac Cummings, testified "that Zacheus Gould in time of singing the psalm one Sabbath day in the afternoone, sate him downe upon the end of the Table (about which the minister & chiefe of the people sit) with his hatt fully on his head, & his back toward all the rest of them that sate about the Table and though spoken to by the minister & 2 others either to shewe reverance to the Ordinance or to withdrawe yet altered not his posture." Topsfield must have been a busy place during the following week. On the next Sunday Gould asked the congregation to remain after the service and an unedifying exchange of insults ensued. Naturally he soon found himself before the magistrates and was fined for "abusive carriages in the meeting house." The incident is reminiscent of the less sympathetic methods of the Quakers in calling attention to what they held to be the emptiness of the New England church.‡

* *Records of the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay*, II: 73, 258; IV, Part I: 33.

† *Ibid.*, IV, Part I: 407, 426.

‡ *Records and Files*, II: 118, 132.

Also in 1658 Gould, being sued by Sergt. Thomas Hale as attorney for Mr. Thomas Burnap, and "not being abel to Com," appointed "my Cozan John Putnam the younger" his attorney. It seems very probable that the Priscilla, the wife of John Putnam the elder, was a sister of Zacheus Gould. The Putnams emigrated from Aston Abbots, co. Buckingham, which is not far from the Gould country on the Hertford and Buckingham border.*

Gould's final troubles were with the town of Rowley. The boundary between Rowley and Topsfield had not been defined, and Rowley claimed that part of Gould's farm was in its territory. At a Topsfield town meeting on March 14, 1661/2, Gould did "give in his farm of three hundred acres . . . that he now lives upon, to Topsfield . . . forever, with all the priviledges and appurtenances thereunto belonging." Rowley did not consent to this unilateral action and distrained the farm for rates. Two Rowley men, John Prichard and Ezekiel Northend, testified that "the dwelling house in which goodman gould liveth is within the bounds of the towne of Rowley several scores of Rods." Gould sued the constable of Rowley for trespass. The defendant won the verdict, but the court would not accept it, noting that Gould had paid toward the ministry in Topsfield for many years. The General Court finally settled the mattêr in favor of Gould and Topsfield on October 11, 1665.† The Court also settled the disputed bounds between the farms of Governor Endicott and Gould in 1666.

The records contain no will or settlement of Gould's estate.

DEACON

Thomas Deacon, of Corner Hall, a hamlet in the parish of Hemel Hempstead, co. Hertford, was a tanner by trade. He it was who was referred to when his great-grandson, John Gould of Topsfield (1662-1724) wrote in his account book "Grandfather Deacon lived in Hertfordshire in Hempsteadtown in Corner Hall." He married at Hemel Hempstead on June 15, 1596, Martha Field, who survived him. His will, dated December 8, 1642, gives his residence as Hemel Hempstead and names his wife Martha executrix "being fully persuaded that she will discharge the friends that stand bound for me to divers men and be

* *Ibid.*, II: 126.

† *Ibid.*, III: 125, 236, 259. *Records of the Governor and the Company of Massachusetts Bay*, IV, Part II: 289.

helpful to my children." To his children he left "no more than 20s. each," and to the poor of the parish 30s. Overseers: cousin Richard Sawell of Ivinge and son Elisha Deacon to whom 10s. each. Witnesses: Roger Deacon, Thomas Paice. Administration was granted to William Davies, chief creditor, the executrix having died, on October 24, 1663, and on April 3, 1667, to Isaac Field, executor of William Davies, of the goods of Thomas Deacon not fully administered.*

There were Deacons in neighboring Hertfordshire parishes but no light has been shed on Thomas Deacon's parentage. There were three Deacons, contemporaries of Thomas, married in Hemel Hempstead: Mathew Robson and Awdrie Deacon on January 16, 1586/7; Raphe Deacon and Widow Howton on October 9, 1592; Roger Deacon and Annis Turner on June 2, 1596. They were very probably his sister and brothers. Roger's wife, Agnes (Annis and Agnes are interchangeable) was buried December 5, 1616. They had a son Jeremy Deacon baptized in Hemel Hempstead February 8, 1600/1, who was at the Merchant Taylors School in 1614 and at Trinity College, Oxford, in 1619. The father was probably that Roger Deacon, citizen and skinner of London, whose will, dated October 11, and proved November 18, 1624, left his estate to his son-in-law Thomas Sharow, his daughter Martha and his grandchildren William Jones, Grace Jones and Roger Cottrell.†

Children of Thomas Deacon, baptized in Hemel Hempstead: (1) Phebe, bapt. April 3, 1597; m. Zacheus Gould. (2) Anne, bapt. June 22, 1600. (3) Thomas, bapt. February 14, 1601/2. (4) Elisha, bapt. January 9, 1602/3; living in 1642. (5) Sara, bapt. December 25, 1604. (6) Thomas, bapt. December 25, 1609; buried in the church of Hemel Hempstead, "Heere lyeth interred the body of Thomas Deacon the sonne of Thomas Deacon and Martha his wife of Cornerhall Batchelor of Arts and student in phisick who by his extraordinary spare body in respect of breadth being long sick of a consumption and of his as extraordinary height being in proportion to the length of this stone might show the desire he had to heaven and so departed Sept. 28 An. Do. 16—"; as Thomas son of Thomas Deacon of Hempstead, co. Herts, pleb., he had matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, November 23, 1627, aged 18, and received his B. A. on December 6, 1630. (7) Martha, daughter of Thomas Deacon "of Corner Hall," bapt. August 22, 1613.

* Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 119 Juxon.

† *Ibid.*, 105 Byrde.

Children of Zacheus and Phebe Gould:

i. PHEBE, bapt. at Hemel Hempstead Sept. 27, 1620; m. about 1640 Thomas Perkins. (*See Perkins.*)

ii. MARY, bapt. at Hemel Hempstead Dec. 19, 1621; m. about 1647 John Reddington of Topsfield.

iii. MARTHA, bapt. at Hemel Hempstead June 15, 1623; m. John Newmarch of Ipswich.

iv. PRISCILLA, probably born at Great Missenden; m. John Wilde of Topsfield. (*See Wildes.*)

v. JOHN, probably born at Great Missenden in 1635; m. Oct. 14, 1660, Sarah Baker; d. in Topsfield Jan. 26, 1709/10; she d. Jan. 20, 1708/9.

He was the greatest landowner and the most prominent citizen in Topsfield in his day. In the local foot-company he became an ensign in 1674, lieutenant in 1686 and captain in 1694. He was town clerk from 1681/2 through 1684/5 and on his assuming that office he and Lieutenant Peabody were entrusted with transcribing the old town book into a new book. He was selectman from 1677/8 to 1686/7 and again in 1692. Finally in 1690 he was a deputy to the General Court. He was an active promoter of the iron works in Rowley Village, afterward Boxford, which venture was not successful and was abandoned about 1680.

In the unhappy scandal over the conduct of Mr. Thomas Gilbert, the Topsfield parson, in 1671, Sarah Gould was the principal witness against him, and there is much local color in the testimony. To the present-day reader of the testimony it would seem that Gilbert was a sick man rather than an alcoholic, but the court, although somewhat doubtful, ruled against him.

Captain Gould was an ardent defender of the Massachusetts Charter when it was abrogated in 1686, and an outspoken critic of the new government of President Dudley. Some of his Topsfield neighbors, regrettably including his brother-in-law John Wild, informed against him and he was accused of treason and lodged in Boston jail. He petitioned for pardon and was released upon the payment of a fine of £50, costs of £10, and provided a bond of £100 for good behavior. He must have had mental reservations, however, and there was ill will between him and the Topsfield informers until the church intervened.

From Captain Gould's five sons there is a multitude of descendants.

IX

TOWNE, OF TOPSFIELD

TOWNE

Since 1929, when I published *The Ancestry of Lieut. Amos Towne,* The Norfolk Record Society has produced many volumes of documentary material dealing with that county, including probate indices, subsidy rolls, etc., but nothing in them throws further light on the Towne family of Great Yarmouth. The name Towne is not common, but some of the name are found in southern Lincolnshire and northern Suffolk, and, as Great Yarmouth is on the Suffolk border, our Townes may have come from the latter county. John Towne, the father of the emigrant, was not a freeman of Great Yarmouth nor were any others of the name, and his status was doubtless very simple.

1. JOHN[1] TOWNE is represented in the registers of the parish of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, co. Norfolk, by the baptism of two children and his later marriage to Margaret Walden on September 1, 1600. The first of the children baptized is entered as son of John and *Alice* Towne and the second as son of John and *Elizabeth* Towne. The clerk may have made an error in writing the mother's name in one case or the other, or John Towne may have had two wives in close succession. However, the late Mr. Bower Marsh, a highly experienced English genealogist, has said that he has found Alice and Elizabeth used interchangeably more than once.

Children:

i. ARTHUR, bapt. Aug. 28, 1597.
2. ii. WILLIAM, bapt. March 18, 1598(9).

2. WILLIAM[2] TOWNE (*John*[1]) was baptized at Great Yarmouth on March 18, 1598(9). He married Joan Blessing at St. Nicholas church, Great Yarmouth, on April 25, 1620. In that church they had six children baptized between 1621 and 1634 and some time thereafter, the exact year not known, they emigrated to New England and settled in Salem where many Great Yarmouth people had preceded them. William Towne died in Topsfield about 1673 and his wife probably survived until about 1682 when their children divided the Towne property.

The first record of William Towne in America appears in the town book of Salem in 1640 when he was granted "a little neck of Land right over against his house on the other side of the river." In the same year he sued John Cook in what seems to have been a boundary dispute and obtained a verdict and costs. It is probable that Towne was in Salem some years before 1640,

however. The list of grants by the town to that portion of its territory called the North Fields is undated and the best opinion seems to indicate that the grants were made before 1635, when the town records begin. William Towne's name appears on this list, and it was in the North Fields that he lived.

In 1651 Towne purchased land in the neighboring town of Topsfield from William Paine of Ipswich. This farm contained forty acres "part of which is plow land, another part is meadow, another part is upland unplowed, all lying together," bounded by William Howard toward the east, Walter Roper on the north and a "Sertaine River" toward the south or southwest. There were also included two acres on the south side of the river.

He sold his Salem property to Henry Bullock in 1652 and bought additional land at Topsfield in 1656. In 1660 in testifying in a lawsuit his age was estimated at three score years.* He was made a commoner of Topsfield in 1661, and his wife was dismissed from the Salem church to that of Topsfield in 1664. On the occasion of the marriage of his son, Joseph, to Phebe Perkins, daughter of Deacon Thomas Perkins, in 1663, William Towne deeded two-thirds of his real property to Joseph, with whom he and his wife doubtless lived for the remainder of their days.

Joanna Towne figured in a series of suits brought by and against Mr. Thomas Gilbert, the Topsfield minister, in 1670. Gilbert, by his own testimony and that of his wife, was a sick man and he was doubtless of erratic temperament, but some of his principal parishioners laid his acts and eccentricities to over-indulgence in drink, and the court seems to have considered their suspicions credible. Most of the evidence produced dealt with a dinner at the parsonage between two Sunday services at which Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert had Capt. John Gould, Mr. Thomas Perkins, and their wives, and old Mrs. Towne as their guests. A gold cup (surely a rare treasure in seventeenth-century New England) filled with wine was passed about the table and Mr. Gould alleged that Mr. Gilbert drank too freely therefrom. Joanna Towne (her age being given as seventy-five) testified that on Sunday Mr. Gilbert had administered the "sacrament swetly unto us" and that after the service "I was att dinner att M^{ter} Gilberts table . . . and sat next to him on his right hand, and though some report that he drank too much of the sacrament wyn . . . I believe he is wronged, for I that then sat next him saw no such matter . . . And I can saifly take my oath that though our

* *Records and Files*, etc., II: 205.

minister had the cup twyce in his hand, yet the first tyme he drank not one drop of it, but gave it out of his hand to Thomas Perkins, bidding him give it to me, for I needed it mor than he, being older. When the cup had gone about, it came into his hand the second time and I am sure ther could not be much in it then (it may be two or three spoon-ful) and that he drank."*

In 1692 at the trial of Joanna Towne's daughter Rebecca Nourse for witchcraft, Ann Putnam testified that young John Putnam had said, referring to Rebecca and her sister Sarah Cloyes, "that [it] was no wonder they were witches for their mother was so before them."

At the June term of court, 1673, Joanna Towne was appointed to administer the estate of her late husband, which fixes the approximate date of William Towne's death. The property was probably retained by her until her death, and it was not divided until 1682, when Mary, widow of Edmund Towne, Jacob Towne, Joseph Towne, Francis Nourse, Mary Estey and Sarah Bridges addressed to the court "the Humbell peticion of us whos names are under wrighten in way of a seatellment of a small esteat left to us by our Honered ffather deceased about tenn yers agoo who died and leaft no will," and requested that the real estate be assigned to the sons and the personal property to the daughters.†

Children, the first six baptized in Great Yarmouth:

i. REBECCA, bapt. Feb. 21, 1621; m. Francis Nourse of Salem. She was executed for witchcraft on July 19, 1692, having been acquitted on her first trial, but later rearrested and convicted, her attitude throughout demonstrating the highest nobility of character. Francis Nourse distributed his estate among their children in 1694, his sons being John, Samuel, Francis and Benjamin Nourse, and his sons-in-law Michael Bowden, Thomas Preston, John Tarbell and William Russell.‡

ii. JOHN, bapt. Feb. 16, 1623/4; d. *s.p.*

iii. SUSANNAH, bapt. Oct. 20, 1625; d. *s.p.*

iv. EDMUND, bapt. June 28, 1628; m. about 1652, Mary Browning; d. in 1678. He came to New England when he was nine years old as an apprentice of Henry Skerry on the ship *Rose* which sailed from Great Yarmouth in 1637. He settled, after his marriage, in Topsfield where he was a commoner in 1661, and took the Freeman's Oath in 1664. He was a trial juryman in 1655, grand juryman in 1663, selectman in 1673, constable in 1675 and tythingman in 1677. In 1666 he was appointed corporal of the Topsfield train band and was later promoted to sergeant. Administration on his estate was granted to his widow Mary on June 27, 1678. She made her will Feb. 1, 1709, and it was probated Dec. 16, 1717.§

* *Ibid.*, IV: 247, 369.

† Essex Probate, No. 27923.

‡ *Ibid.*, 305: 104.

§ For further information on Edmund Towne and his descendants, see *The Ancestry of Lieut. Amos Towne*, W. G. Davis, 1927.

3. v. JACOB, bapt. March 11, 1632.
   vi. MARY, bapt. Aug. 24, 1634; m. Isaac Estey. She was executed for witchcraft Sept. 22, 1692, her petition to the court being the outstanding note of high fortitude and understanding charity which has come down to us from Salem's black days. He died in 1712 in Topsfield. His will, made March 26, 1709, mentions his sons Isaac, Joseph, John, Benjamin, Jacob, and Joshua, and his daughters Sarah Ireland and Hannah Abbot.
   vii. SARAH, bapt. Sept. 3, 1648, in Salem; m. (1) Edmund Bridges Jan. 11, 1659/60. He died about 1682, and she m. (2) Peter Cloyes as his second wife. She was accused of witchcraft in 1692, primarily because of her courageous protest against the public blackening of her sister's name by the Salem Village clergyman, Mr. Parris, but escaped execution. She removed to Sudbury and died before 1704, when Cloyes married as his third wife Susanna Beers. He died July 18, 1708.
   viii. JOSEPH, bapt. Sept. 3, 1648, in Salem; m. Phebe Perkins about 1653, in which year his father conveyed to him a part of his house and land in Topsfield in view of the contemplated marriage. He was made freeman March 22, 1690. He died in 1713, administration being granted to his eldest son Joseph on Feb. 21, 1714. His children yielded their rights in his household goods to their mother on May 27, 1715, the names signed to the instrument being Joseph, Sarah, Martha and Phebe Towne, John Cummings (husband of Susannah Towne) and Thomas Nichols (husband of Joanna Towne).*

3. JACOB[3] TOWNE (*William*[2], *John*[1]) was baptized at Great Yarmouth on March 11, 1632, and was a boy of three or four when he came to New England with his parents. He married Catherine Symonds in Salem on June 26, 1657. He died in Topsfield on November 27, 1704.

In Topsfield he was a commoner in 1661, a selectman in 1679, 1680 and 1683, and was frequently on committees to run lines of town grants and boundaries. He served as a trial juror in 1676 and 1681, and as a grand juror in 1692. He was a corporal in the town's train band in 1681 and ensign in 1687.

Towne was one of the committee appointed by the church to choose a minister in 1680, and, Mr. Joseph Capen having come to Topsfield for the preliminary interviews, Towne was directed to accompany Capen back to Dorchester "and bring him again with his friends' consent to continue with us in the ministry." He was also on the committee to provide for Mr. Capen's ordination in 1684, and the committee to seat the people in the meeting-house, a task requiring great tact, in 1687. He was one of the tythingmen in 1701.

Jacob was seldom in the courts. Mr. William Perkins sued him in 1657, but the case was withdrawn, but in 1660, when Mr. Henry Bartholomew sued him for withholding a mare and a foal,

* Essex Probate, 311: 236, 270.

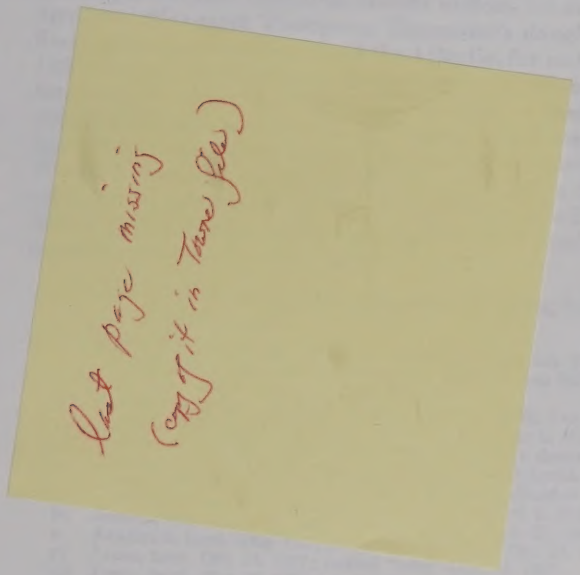
the verdict was for Bartholomew. He testified in 1681, aged about 50, that thirty-five or six years ago his father had bought twenty acres of land of Jeffrey Massey and paid for it in wheat, and when his father removed from Salem to Topsfield in 1651, he sold the lot, which was at Ryal Side, to Nathaniel Felton. In 1682 he acted as agent for his town in the bitter dispute between Salem and Topsfield over the boundary line, which is considered to have had vengeful repercussions in the witchcraft accusations of 1692.

The will of Jacob Towne, husbandman, was made November 24, 1704, and proved January 5, 1704(5). He left to his son Jacob the land upon which he was already settled consisting of about 49 acres on the south side of Ipswich river and an acre and 60 poles on the north side. To his daughter Katherine, wife of Elisha Perkins, £5 "not in or as money but other Current pay," besides what he had already given her. To his daughter Deliverance, wife of John Stiles, £4 "besides what she hath had of me already." To his son John and his daughter Ruth, equal shares in the land that he [the testator] lived on, not otherwise disposed of, with the house, orchards and all of the moveable estate, they to provide comfortable maintenance for his wife Katherine and his son Edmund during their natural lives. They were also to pay his debts and his funeral expenses. In addition, to his daughter Deliverance, after his wife's decease, the (bed?) which his son Edmund hath usually had improvement of. Witnesses: Joseph Capen, William Town, Samuel Town.*

Children, born in Topsfield:

i. JOHN, b. April 2, 1658; m. Mary Smith, Feb. 2, 1680. In 1698 he bought 211 acres in Framingham from Joseph Buckminister, and apparently moved there as he had a son born in Framingham in 1699, and was elected selectman in 1700. His father, from the evidence of his will in 1704, seems to have hoped that he would return to Topsfield. He sold his Framingham farm in 1713, and moved to Oxford where he was town clerk, selectman and deacon. He died in 1740.
ii. JACOB, b. Feb. 13, 1659(60); m. June 24, 1684, Phebe Smith who d. Jan. 14, 1740; he d. Oct. 4, 1741, in Topsfield.
iii. KATHERINE, b. Feb. 25, 1661(2); m. Feb. 23, 1680, Elisha Perkins. (*See Perkins.*)
iv. DELIVERANCE (twin), b. Aug. 5, 1664; m. Nov. 24, 1684, John Stiles, the marriage recorded in Boxford.
v. RUTH (twin), b. Aug. 5, 1664; apparently unmarried in 1704, and probably the Ruth who d. Aug. 1, 1739.
vi. EDMUND, b. July 21, 1666; obviously, from his father's will, a cripple or an invalid; d. Dec. 25, 1736.

* *Ibid.*, 308: 319-321.



BLESSING

Blessing is an exceedingly rare surname in England. Search in many indexes of public records has failed to turn it up at all, with the exceptions with which this article deals. In Boyd's invaluable marriage index for Suffolk, which covers every recorded marriage in that county, is found that of John Blyssynge and Joane Preaste in the year 1569 in the parish of Somerleyton. This is the one record of the name in the tens of thousands of entries which the Suffolk index contains. A letter to the rector of Somerleyton produced a pleasant but genealogically unsatisfactory reply, as is so often the case with such missives, inasmuch as the clergy do not, and probably cannot be expected to, understand the objects of record searching and too often cannot read the ancient writing in the registers. From it, however, it was learned that John and Joane Blyssynge had two children baptized in Somerleyton, a daughter Julian in 1571 and a son William in 1575. The rector found no more. Between forty and fifty years later, in the parish of Great Yarmouth, co. Norfolk, which lies on the Suffolk border and is about seven miles from Somerleyton, as the crow flies, three Blessing girls were married. Here again they are the sole representatives of the name in the Great Yarmouth marriages, indexed by Mr. Boyd, and a search of the parish register failed to disclose their baptismal records. It seems most likely that these young women were granddaughters of the Somerleyton couple, their parents marrying and bringing their children to baptism in some other parish before settling in Great Yarmouth, but unless one is personally on the ground, with plenty of time, a search of the registers of neighboring parishes is almost prohibitive. There are no Blessing wills to solve the problem and no Blessing man received the freedom of Great Yarmouth. The family was doubtless of humble status.

The three Great Yarmouth girls were Margaret Blessing who married Robert Buffam in 1613, Joan Blessing who married William Towne in 1620 and Julian Blessing, married to Thomas Goose in 1622. That there was a fourth sister, Alice Blessing, who married about 1615 into the family of Firmage of Great Yarmouth, can be demonstrated with reasonable certainty although her marriage record has not been found. Great Yarmouth was a strongly Puritan town in the period with which we are dealing and sent many emigrants to New England, among them Robert Buffam, the widower of Margaret Blessing, Alice (Blessing) Firmage and her children, and Joan (Blessing)

Towne, her husband and family. With other Great Yarmouth neighbors they settled in Salem in the colony of Massachusetts Bay.

1. MARGARET BLESSING married Robert Buffam in the church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, August 23, 1613. Buffam or Bougham was a rare name in the parish and Robert was presumably a son of James Bougham and Margery Raylton who were married there on February 13, 1589/90. Margaret (Blessing) Buffam died before August 11, 1634, when in the neighboring church of South Walsham, co. Norfolk, Robert Buffam married Thomasine Thompson, the young widow of John Thompson and a daughter of George Ward of Great Yarmouth and his wife Dionis Burrow. Thomasine Ward had married John Thompson at St. Nicholas' church on November 29, 1632, and her parents had been married there January 28, 1596/7. Thomasine Buffam had a son Joshua, named for a son of Margaret (Blessing) Buffam who had been buried in 1631, baptized on February 28, 1635/6, and a daughter Mary baptized February 2, 1637/8, and soon thereafter Robert Buffam, his wife and children, and Margaret Thompson, Thomasine's daughter by her first husband, must have crossed the Atlantic, for on October 29, 1638, Robert appeared at a town meeting in Salem and asked for "accomodation," that is to say, a grant of land, which he obtained. Thomasine and her children became strong Quakers and suffered severely for their faith. In 1666 her brother Jeffrey Ward of Great Yarmouth left £100 to "Thomesin Buffam my sister now or late the wife of Robert Buffam on New England."* Robert Buffam died in Salem on August 6, 1669, and his widow survived until May or June, 1688.

Children of Margaret (Blessing) Buffam, baptized at Great Yarmouth:

i. MARY, bapt. Aug. 21, 1614; m. at Great Yarmouth Dec. 6, 1635, Adam Mills, both single, but she soon died as Adam Mills, widower, m. Jane Ward, single, on Dec. 27, 1636.
ii. SAMUEL, bapt. Dec. 22, 1616; m. at Great Yarmouth Jan. 10, 1637/8, Margaret Greney, both single. They did not come to New England.
iii. DEBORAH, bapt. Sept. 26, 1619. From the papers dealing with the estate of her father it appears probable that Deborah died young and that Robert Buffam's second wife had a daughter whom she named Deborah and who married Robert Wilson in Salem in 1658.
iv. JOSHUA, bapt. Aug. 25, 1622; buried, "puer," Sept. 23, 1631.
v. ABRAHAM, bapt. Aug. 17, 1625; buried "infans," Oct. 21, 1631.
vi. JACOB, bapt. Oct. 28, 1627; buried "infs," Oct. 13, 1631.
vii. JOHN, bapt. May 22, 1631; no further record.

* Archdeaconry of Norfolk.

2. ALICE BLESSING—the evidence for believing her to have been a Blessing will be given later—was married about 1615 to a man named Firmage whose given name is not known. The family of Firmage had some slight prominence in Great Yarmouth, men of the name having been bailiffs of the town in 1531, 1532, 1537 and 1551, and others being listed in the freeman's roll. The name is hardly spelled twice alike either in Old or New England—Fermace, Formais, Fearmayes, Feiremayde, Vermage, Vermaes, Vermaz, Vermayes, Vermasse and Vermages. Alice's husband either died in England or on the voyage to America for she was "widow Alice Vermais" when she appeared before the Salem town meeting on October 29, 1638, with her son Mark and her presumptive brother-in-law, Robert Buffam, and asked for "accomodation" which was granted her in the form of 50 acres on February 4, 1638/9. The two sons and four daughters who were with her in Salem must have been born in England, but, like her marriage, their baptisms are not found in the Great Yarmouth register. Probably they lived in a neighboring parish.

Alice Vermais was a member of the Salem church in 1639, but after a few years she moved to Boston, possibly with her daughter Abigail Button and her husband. The Buttons were still in Salem in 1644 but were living in Boston in December, 1645. On August 3, 1655, Alice Vermaz, widow, sometimes of Salem, for £10 sold to Henry Skerry 10 acres in the North Field in Salem, abutting on North river, and 5 acres of meadow in Wenham, adjoining land given by the town of Salem to Henry and Francis Skerry.* She made her will on February 8, 1656, and died on the following day.

The will of Alice Fermace of Boston, widow, was proved April 24, 1656. To my sister Joan Towne, my old cloth gown. To my daughter Ester Estick, my best stuffe gown. To my grandchild Susan Goose, my box and my muff. To my daughter Sary Langdon, my red petticoat. All my wearing linen to my daughter Sarah Langdon and my daughter Ester Estic. Pilgrim, Edee and Elizabeth, my negro servants, to my son Mr. Edward Hutchinson, their service to be equally divided by my daughter Susan Goose and my daughter Abigail Hutchinson. Residue to all children equally. Executor: son Mr. Edward Hutchinson. Witnesses: Jonathan Negus, Elkenah Coope. The goods of Alice Fermase, widow, late of Salem, deceased, were on February 20, 1655(6), appraised at £18: 3: 0 by Jeffrey Massey and Henry

* Essex Deeds, I: 67.

Skerry, Sen. Her Boston property was valued at £11: 10: 0 in a separate inventory made by Richard Cooke and Benjamin Gillam on March 11, 1656.

The legacy to "my sister Joan Towne" is evidence that Alice Firmage was born a Blessing as we know Joan to have been, although there is the possibility that they were half-sisters, born to a common mother. Additional evidence is presented by the name of Alice's daughter Susan Goose. The will (1705) of Joshua Buffam, son of Alice's brother-in-law, Robert Buffam, states that he had bought 5 acres in the North Field from his "cousin Goose." This conveyance, dated November 13, 1677, was from Susanna Goose of Boston, widow, to Joshua Buffum, covering 5 acres in the North Field. Her son Isaac Goose, consented to the sale on the same day.* It should also be noted that Joshua Buffam was not a son of his father's first wife, Margaret Blessing, but of the second, and was not, therefore, a blood cousin of the Firmage children, but it would not be strange for the relationship to be assumed.

Alice Firmage's 50-acre grant in Salem was not disposed of until June 1, 1678, when Susannah Goose of Boston, widow, Abigail Hutchinson of Boston, widow, John Langdon, sailmaker, of Boston, and Sarah, his wife, and Esther Eastwick of Salem, widow, sold it to Samuel Frayl of Salem for £50.†

It is hardly to be doubted that the two Firmage young men who were in Salem with Alice Firmage, 1638-1640, were her sons, but neither Mark nor Benjamin is mentioned in her will. Both had long since left the Massachusetts Bay Colony, however, and her highly personal legacies would not have been suitable for them. They are treated herein as her children, although slight possibility exists that she was their stepmother.

Children of Alice (Blessing) Firmage, born in England:

i. MARK, surely born by 1619 as he (Formais) was made a freeman in Salem May 13, 1640, having been admitted to the church Sept. 22, 1639. He had applied to the town for land in 1638 and was granted a 10-acre lot. Mark became engaged to marry a girl named Katherine, her surname unknown, but she jilted him and married Nicholas Pacy. On Dec. 29, 1640, the Pacys appeared in court and Nicholas confessed that he knew of his wife's promise to marry Mark Vermass of Salem when he married her and made "hearty acknowledgment" of the wrong, while Katherine admitted that she had been troubled in her conscience since her marriage. Mark Vermais was sued for trespass by William Cousins in 1641 and in June, 1643, he (Vermass) was a member of the Essex County grand jury. This is the last record of him found in New England. He must have returned to England and found a more faithful girl than the fickle Katherine, for at the Independent Church at Great Yarmouth Mark and Ruth Firman or Vermace had four children baptized, 1647/8-1658, named Benjamin, Ruth, Benjamin again, and William.

* *Ibid.*, 4: 165.

† *Ibid.*, 18: 99.

ii. BENJAMIN, probably born about 1620. He was admitted to Salem church on March 6, 1641/2, and made a freeman in Boston May 18, 1642. "Mr. Benjamin Vermayes married unto Mris Mercy Bradford the one and twentyeth of December," 1648. She was the eldest daughter of Gov. William Bradford and the marriage is recorded as above in the Plymouth Colony Records. He is said to have bought a house and garden in Plymouth, and in 1650/1 in the inventory of the estate of Thomas Richards of Weymouth was entered "debt due to mr. ffermace of Plymouth." Mercy seems to have soon died, childless, and Benjamin, a sea captain, may have travelled far afield, his home port unknown.

On Nov. 28, 1663, the Essex County Court, having been informed of the death of Benjamin Fearemayes at Ginne [Guinea], ordered that his estate in Salem be given into the hands of Captain Huchesson and the widow Hester Eastwick, and on June 26, 1666, administration on the estate of Captain Fermayes was granted to Hester. George Gardner and Francis Nurse appraised the property which consisted of one acre in the field near the north ferry and half an acre, lying between Mr. John Gidney and Goodman Peter, at £14. There was also a ten-acre lot "on Marblehead side" but unfortunately it could not be located. Francis Nurse, aged about forty-five years, deposed that Ester Eswicke entrusted a cow worth £5 to Fermane who promised to pay her 20s. a year for it, nineteen years ago, and Esther was ordered to pay herself her due. Francis Nurse was the son-in-law of Joan (Blessing) Towne. Possibly Mistress Firmage's three negro slaves were the product of one of the captain's voyages to Guinea.

iii. SUSAN, married before 1656 Peter Vergoose of Boston.* In her mother's will of 1656 Susan was called *Goose,* she signed the deeds of 1677 and 1678 *Susan Goose* and the will of Joshua Buffum of 1705 refers to her as *cousin Goose,* Judge Savage's statement that Goose and Vergoose were alternative names, however, led to further investigation, and the fact that Isaac Goose consented to his mother's conveyance to Buffum in 1677 proved a valuable clue.

Peter Vergoose was a Boston merchant who died about December, 1667, when his widow Susanna was appointed administratrix. Their son Isaac *Vertigoose* of Boston bought a lot in Boston from Anthony Harker on Jan. 12, 1662, the deed stating that the purchase price of £30 was paid by Peter Vertigoose, father of Isaac, in part payment for Isaac's services for five years, worth £10 a year. Edward Hutchinson, husband of Abigail Firmage, witnessed the deed.† The land of Isaac Goose *alias* Vergoose was mentioned in a deed of July 13, 1671,‡ and both Peter and Isaac

* In an article entitled "The Four Blessing Sisters" in *The American Genealogist,* Vol. 33, p. 199, I advanced a "plausible theory" that Susan Firmage was the first wife of Capt. William Goose of Charlestown and that she died before 1658 when Captain Goose married Susanna Jones. This theory has proved to be untenable. In fact, I had, at that time, an abstract of the conveyance of the Firmage heirs which was made in 1678, in which Susan Goose, widow, was a grantor, but it was filed in a Hutchinson folder, Abigail Hutchinson being another of the heirs, and thus escaped my notice.

† Suffolk Deeds, IV: 75.

‡ *Ibid.*, VII: 238.